Justice Badoy taken out of Estrada trial

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2001 ★★ 72 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 4 ₱15

Not Yorac's word

ON DEC. 4, the INQUIRER reported, in relation to the coco levy issue, that, "Yorac said the settlement would allow Marcos cronies, who had benefited from the coco levy, particularly businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to keep their plundered loot." The INQUIRER erred in directly attributing to Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac the said statement. The source of the statement is the PCGG Statement on the Coco Levy Settlement dated Dec. 2, 2001 which reporter Donna Cueto secured from an authorized source. The INQUIRER regrets the error.

Tora Bora falls

KABUL—Al-Qaida fighters loyal to Osama bin Laden have agreed to surrender to militia forces after fierce fighting on the rugged Tora Bora mountain in eastern Afghanistan, a local commander said yesterday.

Haji Mohammad Zaman, one of the three leaders of local groups engaged in a week-long battle against the last al-Qaida stronghold, told journalists of the surrender after several hours of fierce fighting.

Zaman said the mostly foreign al-Qaida fight-

TORA/ A20

Sept. 11: World remembers the unforgettable

THE SURRENDER of the defenders of Tora Bora Mountain on Dec. 11 marks three months to the day since the unprecedented terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. ROMY GACAD/AFP

WASHINGTON—Precisely three months after the first jetliner slammed into the World Trade Center, the American national anthem played Tuesday at the White House and across the country as President George W. Bush vowed to "right this huge wrong."

Bush said America did not need monuments and memorials to grieve the deaths of more than 3,000 people in suicide hijackings over New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. "For those of us who lived through these events, the only marker we'll ever need is the tick of a clock

SEPT. 11/ A20

Desierto 'bribe' on tape

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

"WE MADE *tawad* (we haggled)."

The voice on the audio tape was recalling a 1997 meeting allegedly between Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and banker Luke Roxas and his lawyers, where a cash bribe of P500,000 was negotiated down to P400,000 and then handed to Desierto, the country's chief graft-buster.

The audio tape was played yesterday before reporters and supporters by Ernesto Francisco Jr., the lawyer who filed an impeachment complaint against Desierto.

Francisco served as Roxas' counsel and admitted in his complaint that he was an active participant in the alleged bribery.

He identified Roxas as the man who made the statement about haggling over the cash.

"It shows that Roxas and Desierto are lying through their teeth," Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno said yesterday.

The House committee on justice starts deliberations today on the impeachment complaint, after it was endorsed by Moreno.

Both Roxas and Desierto have denied Francisco's allegation that bribery had taken place, or that they had met at all.

Francisco played to reporters a tape of a three-minute excerpt from a meeting held on Oct. 26, 2001 with Roxas, Francisco, two vice presidents of a Roxas real estate firm, two former Accra lawyers and Hillary Evidente, Roxas' secretary. Francisco said Evidente tape-recorded the one-and-a-half-hour meeting on Roxas' instructions, and claimed that he was able to get a copy from a "source."

Francisco has said that in exchange for sitting on a case involving a bank once owned by Roxas, Desierto received from the businessman beta camera parts worth P273,000 and half a million pesos as "gifts."

In a telephone interview, Desierto laughed off Francisco's claim. He said the matter of the tape was "between his former client and him. He can't expect to bother any person, except the two

DESIERTO/ A17

Marcelo 'dummy' of Estrada crony, says ex-lawmaker

BY ROCKY NAZARENO AND CYNTHIA BALANA

YET ANOTHER witness has surfaced to rebut allegations by businessman Pacifico Marcelo that President Macapagal-Arroyo had tried to wrest control of Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) in exchange for recalling her veto of the firm's congressional franchise.

Former Bulacan Rep. Jose Cabochan wrote Senate blue ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo to denounce Marcelo's allegations against Ms Macapagal as "unfounded and baseless."

Cabochan also branded Marcelo as "a front and a dummy" of Jaime Dichaves, a close friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

On Friday, Marcelo testified that he was neither a crony nor a dummy of Dichaves, as has been rumored, but had merely used the influential Cabochan as his go-between with Dichaves.

But Cabochan said it was otherwise.

"He became the eyes and ears of Mr. Dichaves in the telecommunications industry," Cabochan said.

He added that Marcelo "did what Mr. Dichaves told him to do so, just like what any obedient lap dog does for his master."

"I am not surprised that yet another witness has come forward to refute Marcelo's testimony before the committee," said Sen. Francis Pangilinan. He said that Marcelo had "developed a pattern of lying"

MARCELO/ A21

Labor chief unfair, says DOLE union

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, the country's supposed guardian of workers, is being accused of unfair labor practice by employees of the Department of Labor and Employment.

The DOLE Employees Union (DOLE-EU) said union members were discriminated against when Sto. Tomas decided to give a higher "extra Christmas bonus" to management level employees.

Trampe said this was the

LABOR/ A17

$600M less holiday cheer from OFWs

OVERSEAS Filipino workers who traditionally send large sums of money home for Christmas are being more cautious with their wallets this year as the global economic slowdown bites.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said there were signs of an easing in remittance levels with the poor global economic environment to blame.

"We are living in more uncertain times and some of our OFWs may have been hit by the recession and some may have taken a wage cut," he said.

The central bank earlier noted that the slowdown in remittances had also affected the peso, which has not strengthened against the

$600M/ A17

JOAN BONDOC

ALEXANDRA P. ROMUALDEZ receives the Abueva-sculpted TOYM trophy from President Macapagal on Tuesday night. She was cited for Public Service in Print Media and Advocacy.

Inquirer president/CEO named TOYM awardee

BY FE ZAMORA

THEY are "sources of national pride" who represent "professionalism at its best," President Macapagal-Arroyo described this year's Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) during simple award rites at the Palace last night.

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's president and CEO who defied a Palace-inspired advertising boycott in 1999, led this year's TOYM awardees.

She received the Abueva-sculpted TOYM trophy for public service in print media and advocacy.

A project of the Jaycees, TOYM scored a first this year: There were 11 awardees.

A pregnant Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel was awarded for Peace Advocacy, not broadcasting for which she's well-known. She is due to give birth to her fourth child in two months.

"My baby will be born ahead of the peace accord," she laughed, in reference to the peace agreement the government seeks to forge with the communist National Democratic Front (NDF). Hontiveros-Baraquel is a member of the peace panel.

Another woman awardee was

INQUIRER/ A20

JOAN BONDOC

FORMER PDI Mindanao Bureau correspondent Samira A. Gutoc, receives her TOYM award for Youth and Leadership in Social and Cultural Development.

Misuari seeking asylum–UNHCR

THE OFFICE of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday said Nur Misuari was seeking political asylum, but Malacañang expressed confidence that the UN agency would not approve Misuari's application.

The UNHCR's disclosure came as Malaysia hinted that it could grant the detained ousted leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) safe passage to a third country.

While a Malaysian official suggested that Misuari could be given safe passage, Misuari may not be going to Jakarta today after the Committee of the Eight of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) canceled its meeting.

Misuari was supposed to attend the meeting upon the invitation of Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda, who had earlier said that his presence was essential at the meeting.

UNHCR spokesperson Shinji Kubo said UN agency would ask Malaysian authorities for permission to interview Misuari to confirm the asylum request and to evaluate whether he was qualified for UN protection.

Kubo, who described Misuari's case as "sensitive," said Misuari filed for asylum through his lawyer in Washington, D.C. late last month.

"Misuari is asking for asylum so that he will not be returned to anywhere that will endanger his freedom and life," Kubo said.

Misuari was detained Nov. 4 as he fled to the Malaysian state of Sabah after leading an armed revolt on Jolo Island that left more than 100 people dead.

He faces rebellion and sedition charges in the Philippines.

Malaysia had supported Misuari's Islamic separatist drive in the Philippines which ended with

MISUARI/ A21

Cigarette vendor loses life over 25¢

BY NELSON FLORES

LIFE has become extremely cheap in the Philippines—25 centavos to be exact.

In Marikina City yesterday morning, a 36-year-old cigarette vendor wanted to get his 25-centavo change from the fare he gave to a pedicab driver.

CIGARETTE/ A21

Second FRONT PAGE

Badoy taken out of Erap trial

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

IN A SURPRISE ruling, the Supreme Court last night declared the Sandiganbayan justice hearing the plunder charges against jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada on leave until it resolves questions about his neutrality and conduct.

Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the Sandiganbayan 3rd Division, will be considered on leave "until further orders from this court," the SC said in its two-page resolution.

Associate Justice Teresita de Castro, the acting chair of the 3rd Division, is expected to take over Badoy's post indefinitely.

The SC cited one motion by Estrada's lawyers seeking Badoy's inhibition from the trial for his alleged inability to act on the cases against Estrada "with the cold neutrality of an impartial judge."

Improper conduct

In another charge, the defense lawyers accused Badoy of improper conduct when he called for an ambulance to rush him out of the courthouse on Nov. 30, only to be brought to the GMA-7 television station for an interview.

The anti-graft court's 3rd Division is hearing the plunder charges against Estrada as well as separate cases of perjury and illegal use of an alias.

Two weeks earlier, the Supreme Court indefinitely suspended Badoy's superior, Sandigabayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena after the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the country's largest lawyers' association, complained of delays in cases he handled.

BADOY

Garchitorena and Badoy had earlier squabbled in public in a rare display of open conflict among members of the reclusive bench.

During the GMA-7 interview, Badoy disclosed the disappearance of an unpromulgated ruling ordering the transfer of Estrada and his son and co-accused, Jinggoy, from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City to a detention facility inside a PNP Special training camp in Silang, Cavite.

'No impartial judge'

In the complaint for prohibition cited by the tribunal, the Estrada father and son said Badoy should be enjoined from further hearing Criminal Case No. 26558 (the plunder complaint), and illegal use of alias because of his alleged inability to act as an impartial judge.

However, yesterday's SC resolution did not indicate whether the order could be interpreted as a preventive suspension on the ailing Badoy.

De Castro had started presiding over the plunder trial of the Estradas after Badoy filed a leave of absence last week.

The other members of the division are Nicodemo Ferrer (who replaced retired Justice Ricardo Ilarde) and Narciso Nario.

On Monday, the 69-year-old Badoy cut short the hearing on the plunder trial after his blood pressure surged. He ended the hearing at 3:30 p.m.

He had missed two previous hearings because of stress-induced ailments.

Badoy has been confined at the UERM hospital for the past 11 days.

Stenographer's prints found on Badoy papers

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation found the fingerprints of Sandiganbayan stenographer Janno del Rosario on documents that were left on top of the missing court resolution sending former President Joseph Estrada back to his prison in Laguna.

Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy earlier pointed to Del Rosario as the primary suspect in the resolution's disappearance.

"We will ask him why his fingerprints were found there. If he cannot explain, then he has a problem," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday.

He said Rosario would be questioned once he goes back to the bureau anytime this week to undergo a lie detector test. Del Rosario was scheduled to undergo the polygraph last week but it did not push through because his blood pressure shot up.

Del Rosario suffers from hypertension but he and four other court employees are set to return today to the bureau to take the test, NBI investigators said.

Wycoco said NBI investigators compared the set of fingerprints lifted from the court document to those of three court employees, including Del Rosario's.

Wycoco said Badoy left the document on top of the missing court resolution before he went to a hearing of Estrada's plunder trial around 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 26.

When the justice returned around 4 p.m., he found out that the court resolution was already gone.

The resolution allegedly ordered the Estrada's transfer from the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center to his jail in Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

House probers declare Naia 3 contract valid

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

WHILE another House committee is still conducting its own investigation, the House transportation committee has come up with a report upholding the validity of the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. Inc.'s contract to build the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3.

Members of the House committee on good government yesterday took issue with the favorable transport committee report while it is still conducting hearings into allegations of irregularities in the multibillion-peso Piatco contract.

Rep. Enrique "Tet" Garcia questioned the "logic or reason" for referring four resolutions questioning the Piatco contract to two different committees which then conducted separate inquiries.

He said the transport committee's issuing a report would pre-empt the other's findings.

But Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, yesterday's presiding officer, said Garcia's query was premature because no such report had yet been reported out.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, chair of the rules committee, said one of the four resolutions on Piatco was referred to the transport committee because it was meant to determine whether the government had a policy to construct Naia Terminal 3.

The three other resolutions, he said, were intended to determine alleged "malfeasance" or liability on the part of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez and other officials involved in the contact and hence were referred to the good government committee.

Paras confirmed that the committee had issued a report that was being circulated to its 110 members for their signature.

Garcia suggested that the "differences" in the findings of the two committees should first be ironed out.

But Rep. Salacnib Baterina (Ilocos Sur, Lakas) opposed this, saying that this could affect the integrity of the House.

"If we (good government committee) find malfeasance in the Piatco contract, let it be," Baterina said.

Paras said his committee did not find any evidence that the Piatco contract was anomalous or disadvantageous to the government.

He said the committee did not touch on whether there was "malfeasance" on the part of Alvarez and other officials who approved the contract.

He said the committee's brief was limited to determining whether the government had a policy to construct the Naia 3 terminal. Paras said the 11th Congress and the Ombudsman had upheld the Piatco contract, which was awarded in July 1997 during the Ramos administration.

Last Thursday when the transport committee held an executive session to approve its findings, rumors circulated that the committee members had been bribed with P200 million to come up with a report favorable to Piatco.

Paras denied this.

"If our report is against Piatco, they will say we were bribed by the other side. This is damned if you do, damned of you don't," he said.

WE ACCEPT JOB ORDER OF ANY DESIGN INCLUDING BENDING & CUTTING JOB
MADE OF METAL METAL & WOOD
OUR EXPORT QUALITY
HOME AND OFFICE FURNITURE
MODULAR METAL PHILIPPINES INC.
86 EAST DRIVE ST., PARANG, MARIKINA CITY
TEL : 948-7729/948-7730

Special Promo
Bangkok + Pattaya 6Days/5Nights Dep: Dec. 26 $369 (FULL BOARD)
3D2N Shenzhen Departure Dec 21 2001 US $158
5D4N Hong Kong/Shenzhen/ Departure Dec 21, 2001 US $268
6D5N Hong Kong/Shenzhen/ Zhu Hai/Macau Departure Dec 18 28 2001 & Jan 01 2002 US $258
7D6N Hong Kong/Shenzhen/ Zhu Hai/Macau/Chongsan Departure Dec 25, 2001 US $345
5D4N Shanghai/Suzhou/Hangzhou Departure Dec 21 2001 US $567
10D9N Kiang-xi/Lu-shan/Wuyishan Departure Dec 23 2001 US $699
11D10N Shanghai/Beijing/ Shenzhen/Hong Kong Departure Dec 20 2001 US $799
9D7N Australia Departure Jan 29, 2002 US $999 Fullboard
星辰旅遊有限公司
MORNING STAR TRAVEL AND TOURS, INC.
• Manila: Tels.: 526-1111 • 521-8531 • 521-6631
• Makati: Tels.: 812-6201 to 08 • 893-7625 • 813-2738
• Binondo: Tel.: 245-5555 to 60
• Cebu: (032) 233-8263 • 233-8265
IATA PTAA MEMBER

FRIENDS.CAREERS.SUCCESS.
make it happen this Christmas!
A Special Gift for Family Members, Friends and You!
PERSONALITY AND EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT, GROOMING. MODELING. ACTING.
The gift that lasts for a lifetime.
Enroll NOW at any level and get the NEXT LEVEL FREE!
Choose to start classes any time before February 28, 2002.
Enrollment must be before December 15, 2001.
MAKE IT HAPPEN NOW!
CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS.
892 9511
John Robert Powers
www.johnrobertpowers.com
Casmer Building, 195 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati
CONVENIENT PARKING NEARBY
SAVE UP TO ₱30,000

ALSO OFFERS: PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES AS LOW AS 30 cents/COPY
RICOH COPIERS
WE TRANSACT 24 HOURS/DAY FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY
Liquid Type P 12,000 only
AVAILABLE LEASE TO OWN/RENTAL
Powder Type P 16,000 only
KAI GEN. MDSE. Tel.: 716-6110 / 780-0302 / 780-0304
(INFRONT OF PUP ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE BLDG.)
GC-1 BLDG 3GSIS METROHOMES PUREZA STA MESA MANILA
AUTHORIZED DEALERS
Metro Manila: Caloocan 357-6872 • LUZON: Baguio (074) 4436914 or 3042946 • Tarlac (045) 8000409Lipa (043) 3122676 • Lucena 042 710/966 • Daet 054-7215809 • Naga 472-0494 • Iriga 054-6562024 • Legazpi 061-8203345 • Masbate 056-3332793 • VISAYAS: Cebu 032-4123697 • Catbalogan 055-2512205 • Calbayog 055-2053122 • Tubigon (038) 325-3441 • Iloilo 033-3297828 • MINDANAO: Pagadian (062) 214-4651 • Davao 082-2226824 • Gen Santos 083-3020743 • Cagayan de Oro (088) 2313850 Cotabato (064) 421-6739 • Iligan 063-2215492

COPYSTAR OFFICE AUTOMATION
PROVEN HEAVY DUTY COPIER REMANUFACTURED
Introducing
CLEAR POWDER COPIER
RICOH FT 3320
for only P16,000
SALES: 899-7101 up to 04 / 899-7045 • 899-7075 to 76 • 899-7023
MAIN OFFICE: COPYSTAR Bldg. 946 J.P. Rizal Ave., Makati City • Fax: 895-7802
CEBU OFFICE: 178 Sanciangko St., Cebu City 255-0504 • 256-3308 to 09
PAMPANGA: McArthur Hi-way, Dolores San. Fdo., Pampanga 963-5055 to 58 • Fax: 963-5059

...and did it my way!
MAGIC VIDEOKE MICROPHONE
Have it your own way, sing your heart out anytime and anywhere with Magic Videoke Microphone. That's videoke without the heavy equipment and stacks of CDs. All you need to do is plug the microphone to your TV and you can start singing. With over 1,000++ built-in songs to choose from.
WIRELESS EXTENSION
BLACK MODEL
SILVER MODEL
Hurry and bring home your own take-along videoke.
WHOLESALE & RETAIL:
STERN BRAVO TRADING CORPORATION
Suite 603 RICHBELL TOWER 17 Annapolis St., Greenhills San Juan, M.M. • (632) 722 6786 (632) 722 [illegible]

BAD BREATH
Now, no more reason to endure what we can easily cure!
As a leading dental clinic, we are aware how painfully embarassing it is to have a bad breath, so we exhausted all means to be able to come up with a sure cure for it.
First, we use HALIMETER apparatus, a unique bacteria locator, then we apply the most effective patented medication & treatment.
Succeeding treatments are FREE! Regain your confidence!
TEETH BLEACHING also available
Suite #224 Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. 811-4071 • 752-4735

HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF
CALL: 410-4521 929-9598 • 928-2765 926-6031 • 926-6029 415-3841 • 410-7228
BUFFET ROYALE 7 courses For 50 persons.....P8,250 only
1 WHOLE SPECIAL NATIVE LECHON (about 3 ft) • PAELLA (2 gallon trays) with prawns, clams, chicken, chorizo) • TWO WHOLE CHICKEN RELLENO (Nt. Wt 1.2 kg each, cooked) boneless and makes about 50 slices • BEEF CALDERETA (4 kg beef) spicy, thick sauce • RELLENONG BANGUS (4 big pcs, more than 1 ft long each) • BEEF MORCON (8 pcs., 6 ½" long each) • SPECIAL FRUIT SALAD (2 gallon trays, Nt Wt 2 kg each) special and creamy with peaches, grapes and lychees
FREE DELIVERY
PULUTAN SPECIAL 4 courses For 20 persons.....P1,850 only
PULUTAN GRANDE 5 courses For 20 persons.....P2,200 only
FIESTA ESPESYAL 6 courses For 20 persons.....P2,575 only
FIESTA PILIPINO 6 courses For 20 persons.....P2,600 only
FIESTA GRANDE 6 courses For 20 persons.....P2,825 only
FIESTA ROYALE 6 courses For 25 persons.....P3,450 only
HOLIDAY SPECIAL 6 courses For 35 persons.....P6,325 only
BUFFET DE LUXE 6 courses For 35 persons.....P5,675 only
HOMEMADE FOODSTUFF CO. 111 Dr. Lazcano St., Q.C

100% NEW & RECON
RICOH COPIERS
₱12,000. ONLY LIQUID TYPE SAVIN 780 220 V, 60Hz
₱16,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 220 V, 60Hz
₱46,500. ONLY BRAND NEW DIGITAL COPIER + PRINTER 9912-A
100% GUARANTEED! KATUN TONERS & PARTS FOR USE IN SHARP, CANON, RICOH, MINOLTA, TOSHIBA, SELEX, MITA, GESTETNER, RISO, KONICA, ETC.
NOW AVAILABLE: LEASE TO OWN / RENTAL (We Accept Trade-In)
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 Mf Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Nr. NU)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 • 781-3472 • 749-8216
Prov'l Outlets: Cabanatuan: 463-3415 • Cebu: 253-2402
CHEAPER REFILL INK AND CARTRIDGES MOST COMPUTER PRINTER MODELS!

MAMAMAYAN MUNA
HINDI MAMAYA NA!

Straight news ● In-depth analysis ● Provocative columns
We'll deliver them all right at your doorstep.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
"The Largest Selling Newspaper Nationwide"
For Metro Manila home delivery, please call us at
528-01-83 • 528-01-86
or mail/fax reply coupon below to
Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Circulation Division
Ground Floor, Trinity Building, 636 T. M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila Fax No. 528-02-34
I'd like to subscribe to the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Please have my copy delivered to:
Name
Address
Tel. No.
Signature
News that makes a difference

WORD WAR ON HOSTAGES

Tiglao won't buy Lacson story

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

LACSON

TIGLAO

PRESIDENTIAL spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao is not buying Sen. Panfilo Lacson's claim that the Abu Sayyaf would release their three remaining hostages to him without any ransom payment even as military officials yesterday warned that anyone holding secret talks with the Abu Sayyaf would end up in jail.

"If there's no ransom, Mr. Lacson would have to explain why he was there, why he was talking to the Malaysians, what kind of deal he had," said Tiglao.

"And I hope he doesn't explain that just because he's Mr. Lacson he could convince the Abu Sayyaf to release the Burnhams," he said.

Lacson had no business negotiating with the bandits in the first place, Tiglao said.

Tiglao and Lacson have been sniping at each other over the premature disclosure of the opposition senator's recent meeting with unnamed Malaysian negotiators for the release of hostaged Americans Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipina nurse Deborah Yap.

A captured Abu Sayyaf bandit confessed last week that an unnamed "private negotiator" was trying to arrange ransom payments for the Burnhams.

Even without the benefit of underground negotiators, however, the military is confident the Burnhams would be home before the midnight mass on Dec. 16.

"That's a self-imposed deadline and also an inspirational goal," Southern Command Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said.

Closing in on bandits

He said soldiers were now closing in on the location of the bandits holding the hostages.

Lacson was ticked off by Tiglao's disclosure of a secret trip he made to Sabah, Malaysia, last Wednesday to allegedly meet Li Peng Wee, a Zamboanga City-based businessman and ex-Malaysian senator Sairin Karno.

Wee, an adviser to jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, and Karno had reportedly helped negotiate ransom payment for the release of an earlier set of Abu Sayyaf hostages abducted from the Malaysian resort of Sipadan last year.

Lacson did not deny he met with his unnamed Malaysian contacts to discuss the release of the hostages but claimed there was no talk of ransom.

Tiglao said only one official negotiator, William Castillo, has been assigned to deal with the Abu Sayyaf so as not to jeopardize the military operations against the bandits.

"Mr. Lacson is not an authorized negotiator. He should not have involved himself here. And it is the military's wish that such kinds of attempts should be nipped in the bud," he said.

Lacson claimed he did not meet with Karno but with another Malaysian contact.

Tiglao said Lacson's contact may have been Yussuf Hamdan, whom he described as Karno's associate.

A man named 'Karno'

He said a man who identified himself as Karno had called him and Castillo several times before volunteering to negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf but was turned down.

"We will apologize (to Karno) if definitely he can show that somebody is using his name and he hasn't been in contact with Yussuf Hamdan," Tiglao said.

Without giving details, Lacson said the bandits would release the hostages under certain conditions that would be met by the Malaysian government.

"It is not between the Philippine government (and the Abu Sayyaf). It is between the Abu Sayyaf and Malaysia," he said.

In Maluso, Basilan, Col. Hermogenes Esperon, chief of the Task Group Thunder going after the Burnhams' captors, said they would not hesitate to arrest anyone secretly working for the release of the Burnhams and Yap.

Esperon said their orders were clear and that is to arrest anyone working underground to secure the release of the hostages.

"We will arrest them, especially those who are trying to give ransom money," Esperon said.

Col. Renato Miranda, commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade said such private initiatives were endangering not just the hostages but also the soldiers working to rescue them.

Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, chief of Task Force Comet, said individuals who insist on talking with the Abu Sayyaf would be considered sympathizers or supporters of the bandits.

More US military advisers are expected in the Philippines in the coming months to train local troops to go after the Abu Sayyaf, military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan told reporters yesterday.

Two batches of US military advisers made preliminary visits to Zamboanga City and Basilan earlier this month and in October.

Expectation

"We expect more American military personnel to visit the Philippines in connection with the agreement for them to help train our troops," Adan said.

He said the previous visits were "simply to assess our facilities. They were not there to actively train our troops, they were there to assess buildings, where to locate possible barracks for training."

He said the training activities "will still come."

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who obtained $100 million in military aid from the US during a visit to Washington last month, has ruled out a direct combat role for the US advisers.

Meanwhile, there will be no Christmas break for troops involved in hunting down the Abu Sayyaf, Adan said. *With reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP*

Is your computer driving you up the wall?
NEED HELP?
We fix all computer problems!
• On site computer service
• Virus Removal
• Preventive Maintenance
PCMed Computer Technicians
Service Hotline 303-8888

MD LANGUAGE EXPERTS SPEECH CONSULTANCY & DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MD Language EXPERTS' Promo for the Holiday
Avail of our 50% Discount on any of the following programs.
Program A Speech & Personality Enhancement (9-12 AM)
Program B Grammar & Conversational English (1-4 PM)
Program C Business & Technical Writing (4-7 PM)
This 5-Day Intensive Training Program will begin on December 17 to 21, 2001, Monday to Friday (Batch 1)
December 26 to 30, 2001, Wednesday to Sunday (Batch 2)
HURRY!!! There will only be a limited number of students per class.
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS
Rm.401-A, Delta Bldg., West Avenue, Q.C. / Tel.No.: 371-3738/374-4853 or 55

BUDGET BUYS on Quality Bags
CHRISTMAS PROMO
WE SUPPLY ALL KINDS OF BAGS TO SUIT YOUR REQUIREMENTS
• LUGGAGE • ATTACHE CASE • SCHOOL BAG • CONVENTION BAG • SPORTS BAG • BACK PACK • PORTFOLIO • See also our well crafted ORGANIZERS • WALLETS • PURSE
WE ACCEPT SPECIAL ORDERS
WE CAN PUT YOUR PRIVATE LOGO OR COMPANY NAME ON ANY OF OUR PRODUCTS
CALL US NOW FOR DETAILS:
KIDDOS MARKETING
Tels. 252-0641 • 252-0639 • 252-0136
252-9947 • 252-9948 • 252-1034
FAX (632) 252-0636
GUARANTEED GOOD QUALITY AT COMPETITIVE PRICES!

travelling in appreciation of GOD's beautiful & bountiful creations
Merry Christmas & a Peaceful 2002 to everyone!
HOLYLAND 26 Dec. US$ 1,450.00
4 Days BANGKOK US$ 322.00
4 Days MELBOURNE US$ 667.00
4 Days SYDNEY US$ 659.00
4 Days SYDNEY & GOLD COAST US$ 898.00
PIRKKO & TROYTOURS, INC. U-210 City & Land Mega Plaza, ADB Ave., Cor Garnet St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City Tel: 688-8658 • 688-8846 • 687-2694 Fax: 688-8846 E-mail: troytour@info.com.ph

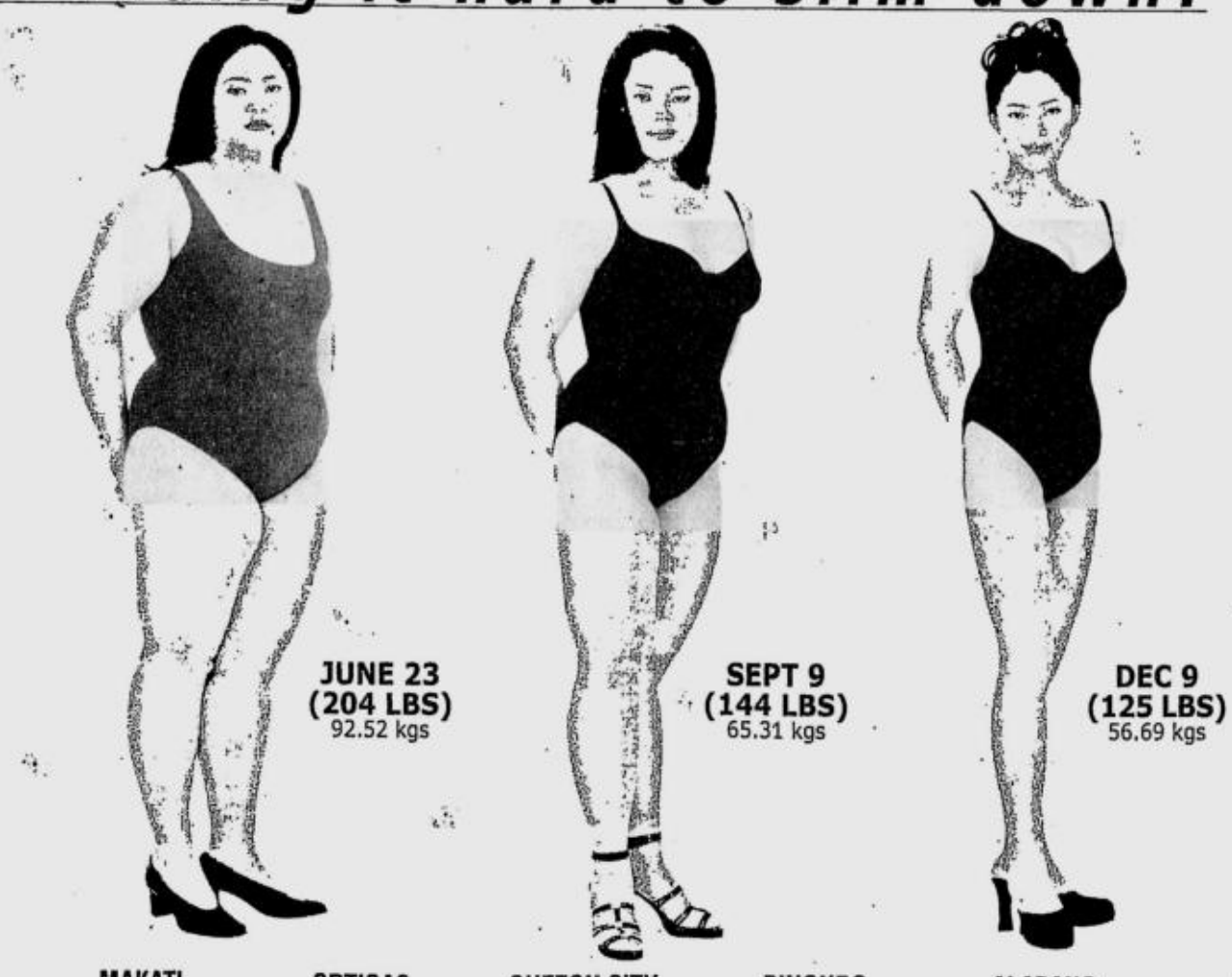
PC BODEGA Brand New Components
Your One-Stop Computer Shop
Computer On Sale!
www.pcbodega.com.ph Order-Online
P4 RETALIATION ▸▸ Pentium 4 1.4 GHz VIA Chipset Mboard,128MB Memory 32MB Riva TNT2 4X,32bit AudioCard 40GB 5400rpm HDD, 52X CD-Drive 1.44MB FDD,14" Monitor,180W speaker 500W AVR,56k modem "INTERNET READY" ₱26,500
P4 POWER FOUR ▸▸ Pentium 4 1.4 Ghz "GENUINE Intel Motherboard" Intel850GB Mboard,128MB RDRAM 32MB Riva TNT2 4X, 32bit AudioCard 40GB 5400rpm HDD, 52X CD-Drive 1.44MB FDD,14" Monitor,180W speaker 500W AVR, 56k modem "INTERNET READY" ₱30,200
PCB SMALLOFFICE ▸▸ Celeron 850 Mhz VIA Chipset Mboard,128MB Memory Video and 32bit Audio controller 20GB 5400rpm HDD, 52X CD-Drive 1.44MB FDD,14" Monitor,180W speaker 500W AVR,56k modem "INTERNET READY" ₱18,500
Canon BJC-1000sp ▸ ₱1,900 / Computer Table&Chair ▸ ₱2,000 / Palm M125 PDA ▸ ₱12,500 Limited Stocks Only!
With any purchase of our computer packages
Tel# (02)721-4482/724-7905/724-7819 #13A Dona Juana B. Rodrigues Ave. New Manila Q.C (corner aurora blvd., infront of Broadway Centrum)

Relief in 6 minutes!
Fast Relief from:
•Bronchial Asthma
•Acute Bronchitis
•Emphysema
•COPD and other respiratory disorders
SPECIAL OFFER! Now Only P3,500!
Unlike ordinary nebulizers, PulmoMist penetrates deeply into the air sac (inner part of the lungs).
For Adults & Children!
Includes: AC Adapter for Home Use, DC Adapter for Car Use
Optional Accessory: Rechargeable Battery
WITH AUTOMATIC SHUT-OFF!
3-YEAR WARRANTY
PulmoMist ULTRASONIC NEBULIZER
Cebu Branch (032) 254-2367
Pasig Branch (02) 631-1715
Davao Branch (082) 222-4404
Lipa Branch (043) 757-2051
Manila Branch (02) 711-8374
Iloilo Branch (033) 320-1413
Manufactured for and Exclusively Distributed by: medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St., Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City Tels. 631-1715; 631-9355; 637-9504 Fax (632) 631-7869 E-mail Address: medcen@info.com.ph
Available in mercury drug Stores Nationwide

Your Best Gift for Christmas-- HEALTH!
FLY PAD
SM MANILA 5TH FLR. 484-1471
FINGER BP MONITOR
BODY TONER
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-6061
AUTOVOLT NEBULIZER
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 262-32-39
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800-40-93
GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN Shoppesville 721-34-87

World's Top Six Brand
Haier
GERMAN QUALITY
Haier and Higher
5 Years warranty on compressor
1 year on other parts
two door ref
single door ref
personal ref
upright & chest type freezers
soon to come: aircon, television, cooler
AVAILABLE IN ALL MAJOR APPLIANCE STORES NATIONWIDE:
Exclusively distributed by Continental Sales, Inc.
28 Quirino Highway, Balintawak, Q.C. call our customer hotline @ tel. 362-5886

Finding it hard to slim down?



Weight-loss is Easy and Effective at Marie-France!

From being a heavyweight at (204 lbs.) 92.52 kgs. to being slim and sexy at (125 lbs.) 56.69 kgs., Jenny Ng is actual proof that Marie-France works!

Weight-loss and maintenance come easily without harm nor hassle through Marie-France's non-invasive and proven effective treatments. Stubborn fat is melted away while flabby areas of your figure are firmed up to reveal your sexier curves in all the right places.

Take the one-and-only safe and sure way to shape up successfully. Call Marie-France now!

Enroll now and get 2 FREE FAT MOBILIZATION SYSTEM TREATMENTS from December 10 - 15, 2001 only!

Uncover Your Curves
Marie France Bodyline International®

MAKATI 816-2563 892-7631/32 812-0472 • 812-0510 Solid Mills Bldg., Dela Rosa St.
ORTIGAS 687-1216 687-1218 638-3028 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.
QUEZON CITY 372-6635 372-6636 410-3723 • 410-3724 Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Ave.
BINONDO 242-2187 242-2191 243-0047 • 243-0049 Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St.
ALABANG 809-9619 850-4574 842-4633 • 842-6887 Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.
SHAW 534-5898 534-5877 717-0071 • 717-0072 Sunshine Square Plaza
CONGRESSIONAL 920-8021 920-8047 920-7675 Q Plaza, Congressional Ave.
PAMPANGA 961-2981/91 860-6921/22 Dan's Marketing Bldg., McArthur Highway San Fernando
CEBU 233-7637 233-7639 233-7641 Keppel Centre, Cebu City

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4140, Series of 2001

NO EXERCISE MACHINES • NO WORKOUT CLASSES • NO PILLS OR INJECTIONS • NO HUNGER PAINS • NO MEDICATIONS • NO SURGERY

PLEA FOR POOR MAIDS

4 Asian nations appeal HK wage cut

HONG KONG—Senior diplomats from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Nepal have urged Hong Kong not to implement a proposed cut in the minimum wage of foreign domestic helpers.

The appeal was issued in a letter to the territory's education secretary from consuls-general of the four Asian nations.

"As representatives of neighboring countries who consider the Hong Kong SAR (special administrative region) a partner and friend, we call on the Hong Kong government to resist any plan to reduce the minimum wage of foreign domestic workers," they wrote.

The diplomats argued that "nowhere in the community of nations are the poorest and most vulnerable subjected, let alone the first to be subjected, to a reduction in a government-mandated minimum wage in times of economic difficulties."

"Indeed, the reverse is true. They are the first to receive protection and assistance," the letter said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has made a similar appeal to the Hong Kong authorities, who are currently considering a 15-20 percent wage cut for domestic workers.

The move would see workers' monthly pay fall from the minimum $HK3,670($470) to between $HK3,120 and $HK2,876.

An announcement is expected to be made by Feb. 1 next year.

A total of 233,110 foreign domestic workers are employed in the territory, with Filipinos accounting for 67 percent or 155,330 of these. Indonesians number 66,970, Thai's 6,940 and other nationals 3,870.

MEMBERS of the Kabataan ng Migranteng Pilipino para sa Bayan rally in front of the Chinese Embassy in Malate to protest housemaids' wage cut.

PNP execs no-show in QC court

THE PHILIPPINE National Police officials investigating the Nida Blanca murder yesterday stood up the family of missing suspect Michael Martinez at a Quezon City court.

But Martinez's wife, Ma. Estrellita, who waited for hours for the police to arrive and present her missing husband, said she was still optimistic that Michael was in the hands of the police.

Judge Percival Mandap Lopez of the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 78 on Monday granted the petition for a writ of habeas corpus sought by Martinez's family.

He gave the PNP officials until 2 p.m. yesterday to produce the body of Martinez. Named as respondents were PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza, Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, Task Force Marsha head; Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Task Force Marsha spokesperson; and Senior Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Task Force Marsha commander for investigation.

But instead of complying with Judge Lopez's decision, the police officials filed a motion for reconsideration at the Court of Appeals. They had insisted that Martinez was not in their custody. *AFP*

TAKE NO COMPROMISE.
Double Your Advantage Now!
daito®
Made in Japan.
DUPLICATING INK
When you need to reap benefits ... DAITO Duplicating Ink is designed to suit your particular needs and preferences.
What's more, you'll double your gain thru our Price Drop-Off!
daito
DUPLICATING INK
For Use on Gestetner.
All Temperature Quality
NET. 400 ml (14oz)#11
DAITO CHEMICAL CO., LTD.
MADE IN JAPAN
PROMO SALE! 10% DISCOUNT
ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT FOR VOLUME ORDERS!
Offer is good until December 30, 2001 only.
STOCKS ALSO AVAILABLE:
• DAITO STENCIL PAPER #50
• DAITO HIGH SPEED STENCIL DUPLICATOR MACHINE
EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR: STEVE MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
No. 10 Ligaya Street, Balintawak, Quezon City • E-mail: stevemfg@easycallweb.com.ph
Tel. Nos.: (02) 363-2933 • 364-2163 • 364-2450 • 365-4031 • Fax No.: (02) 361-7220

Appointment of barangay execs urged

TWO congressmen yesterday proposed the appointment, instead of election, of barangay officials and the abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Rep. Antonio Abaya (Isabela, Lakas), chair of the House ethics committee, wants the Local Government Code of 1991 and the Omnibus Election Code amended so that there would be no more elections for barangay officials.

Instead, Abaya proposed that barangay officials be appointed by a "monitoring council composed of various sectors supposedly to "depoliticize" the smallest political unit in the country.

For his part, Rep. Gilbert Remulla (Cavite, LDP) proposes the specific abolition of the SK in favor of a body elected by various sectors.

Remulla said he is still drafting a bill to seek this change.

Abaya said a council of representatives from religious, business, student, farmers, senior citizens, women, and cultural organizations should have the power to make the barangay appointments.

"Under the law, it is guaranteed that positions in the barangay must not be political," Abaya said.

"By appointing them as done in the past, barangay officials will no longer owe their positions to the mayor, vice mayor, congressmen or whoever helped them in their campaigns," Abaya said.

NO WITNESS, NO EVIDENCE

Ombudsman halts probe of P250-M PCSO 'scam'

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

WHAT is one to do about a so-called scam where the main accuser is a senator who cannot be touched and the principal witness refuses to come out and put his allegations down on paper?

The Ombudsman's office yesterday suspended its investigation into the alleged misuse of P250 million in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds, but without establishing the guilt or innocence of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito P. Gervacio said the fact finding and investigation bureau had to "temporarily" stop the probe because of the failure of the main witness Robert Rivero, a former PCSO consultant, to substantiate his charges.

"(Rivero) has consistently refused to comply with our subpoena asking him to submit his affidavit, so how can we proceed with the investigation?" Gervacio said at a press briefing yesterday.

He said the investigation would resume the moment Rivero could be made to cooperate.

Asked why the Ombudsman's office did not just cite Rivero for contempt for refusing to honor the subpoena, Gervacio said: "We can cite him for contempt but we will be hitting the wrong target. We will get back at him when the right time comes."

ARROYO

It was opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson who accused Arroyo of allegedly dipping his fingers into the sweepstakes funds to finance the media campaign of four administration candidates in the May senatorial elections.

Lacson's allegations were based on the claims of Rivero who has so far failed to execute an affidavit or produce any kind of evidence to back his charges.

Gervacio said Rivero as Arroyo's main accuser should be man enough to formalize his accusations.

The Ombudsman's Office was not an institution that can be used by anyone who "has the nerve to make accusations but runs away when asked to produce evidence."

Rivero's failure to formalize his allegations in an affidavit prompted the FFIB to technically clear Arroyo in an initial report last October.

The FFIB said it did not find anything irregular in the disbursement of P250-million of sweepstakes funds. In fact, it found that the PCSO had disbursed only about P95 million from its P250-million 2001 budget for advertising and promotions, the FFIB report said.

Desierto said then that his office could not prosecute any government official, including Arroyo, for the alleged PCSO scam.

"So far we don't have evidence to warrant a formal investigation (of Arroyo) as shown by documents examined by Ombudsman probers," he said.

Desierto said records from the PCSO resident auditor showed that the disbursements had been aboveboard and supported by proper documentation.

TASK FORCE UAP HEADQUARTERS
celebrates
NATIONWIDE ARCHITECTURE WEEK
December 9 - 15, 2001
PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION
Presenting with pride, the ongoing construction of...
UAP National Headquarters Building
"HOME OF THE FILIPINO ARCHITECTS"
PARTNERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION: Camp Marketing & Development, Inc., Moldex Products, Inc., Prescon Philippines, Inc., Eslcor, Inc., Neltex Development Corp., Filipinas Shutters, Inc., Philips Wire & Cable Corp., Rockbull Manufacturing Co., Inc., Columbia Wire & Cable Corp., Husky Plastic Corporation, Avesco Mktg. Corporation, Pacific Paints & Oil Manufacturing Corporation, Charter Chemical & Coating Corporation, Doormart Enterprises,Inc., D-Square Plumbing Supply,Inc., Felport International Marketing, GS Go Bros.,Inc., Hamburg International Sales Corp., Housville Builder's Center, Inc., Kent Industrial Corporation., Mariwasa Manufacturing, Inc., Moga System Enterprise, World Chem Marketing, Europa Sanitary Wares, Inc., Unity Express Industrial Corp., Jebsen International Trading Corp., Switchgear Phils., Inc., Europtes Industrial Corp., Monolith Const. & Dev'l. Corp., New Golden City Builders & Dev'l. Corp., HYCO Ind'l. Sales Corp., Philmetal Products, Inc., Andresons Global, Inc., Alcophil Metal, Inc., Arlo Aluminum Co., Inc., Kamei Systems, Inc., Alpha - 7 Trades, Inc., Wi-an Aluminum Center, Bonaventure Home Smart, Inc.
PARTNERS IN LOT ACQUISITION: PACIFIC PAINT & OIL MANUFACTURING,INC., CHARTER CHEMICAL & COATING,CORP., Alliedcor Multi-tech&Energy Corp., APO Puyat Vinyl Prods., Atlanta Industries,Inc., Columbia Wire&Cable Corp., Durex Wire&Cable, Dutchboy Phils.,Inc., Filipino Metal Corp., Filipinas Shutters,Inc., HYCO Ind'l. Sales, International Elev.&Equipt.,Inc., Jardine Davies,Inc., Mariwasa Manufacturing, Inc., Massive Ready Mixed Concrete&Construction Inc., Maxlite Merchandising, Moduclasse Int'l. Corp., Moldex Products, Inc., Multi-rich Home Decor, Inc., Neltex Development Corporation, Inc., Pugasa Steel Works, Inc., Philips Wire & Cable Corp., Philmetal Products, Inc., Prescon Phils. Inc., Sinclair Phils., Inc., Steel Asia Mfg. Corp., Total 2000 Corp.
For queries, please call TASK FORCE UAP HEADQUARTERS IMPLEMENTATION & RESOURCES at telephone numbers: 7249214 & 7260365

Cardinal backs 'clinic in every church project'

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin has given his blessings to the project of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. to set up a clinic in every church and place of worship.

Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino made the announcement following a recent courtesy call on Sin at Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong, the cardinal's official residence.

Genuino, in a press statament, said he sought the endorsement for the project "A Clinic in Every Church," which he said "drew inspiration from President Macapagal-Arroyo's goal of helping the poor through socially relevant projects."

Genuino said Cardinal Sin congratulated him for cleaning up the operations of Pagcor and to "continue the good work." Under Genuino, Pagcor broke its revenue record this year through the introduction of scientific reforms and shifting the focus of its casinos from purely gaming into family-friendly entertainment centers, the Pagcor statement said.

Genuino said he and the Cardinal had agreed to let Pagcor fund the establishment of modern health clinics in areas, which need them most. There are approximately 270 churches in the 15 cities and municipalities under the Archdiocese of Manila's jurisdiction.

Genuino clarified that the "clinic in every church" project is not limited to the Catholic Church but is also open to other religious denominations such as mosques.

"This is an ecumenical endeavor. We thought it best to collaborate with the different churches on this project knowing their long-standing record of serving the poor and the needy," Genuino said. The project will start in Metro Manila and eventually spread across the country.

CARDINAL Sin receives Pagcor chief Efraim Genuino.

He noted that Pagcor's proposal to build a clinic in every church will involve the "mobilization of a network of volunteers" composed of doctors, nurses and medical interns who will conduct medical checkups on an outpatient basis.

A million jobs, but only on paper

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE GOOD news is: the Macapagal administration has created a total of 889,656 jobs.

The not-so-good news is that these jobs are still on paper and the out-of-work will have to hope and wait that the government can deliver on these by the year 2004.

Luis Lorenzo Jr., presidential adviser on the 1 million jobs program, yesterday reported that his office has generated projections for nearly one million jobs within the next two years between 2002-2004 in the agriculture and fishery sectors.

In fact, Lorenzo pointed out, they have actually put 19,992 people into jobs in the rice, coffee, banana and corn sub-sectors in just three months when his office started hacking away at the problem of job generation.

"Hopefully this is sustainable," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo briefed Palace reporters on these projections apparently in response to criticisms that Monday's National Socio-Economic Summit called by President Macapagal-Arroyo was just one of those meetings which are high on promises and low on execution.

Lorenzo said the government is intent on proving these "skeptics" wrong.

The very confident sounding Lorenzo said his formula is actually very simple: maximize agriculture and fishery programs in areas where there is a strong demand from both domestic and foreign markets.

The key, according to Lorenzo, is an effective coordination and networking with both local government officials and the private sector.

He cited as an example the case of Parang, Jolo wherein coffee was planted in between coconut trees in order to fill in part of Nestlé's requirement of 16,000 metric tons of robusta coffee beans which the firm is currently importing.

Budget chief charged on firetruck deal

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin was charged with graft yesterday before the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly sitting on a P305 million firetrucks contract.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag filed the administrative complaint on behalf of his client, Yolanda Ramos, chief executive officer of Pilipinas Daeyang Heavy Industrial Corp., which won the contract.

Ramos accused Boncodin of violating the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for public officials.

The firm submitted the lowest bid for 100 fire trucks during the term of President Joseph Estrada but claimed that the bidding was manipulated to favor a firm represented by actress Nora Aunor and actor Paquito Diaz, who were friends of the President.

The Senate blue ribbon committee then conducted an investigation, which had not been finished.

On Dec. 22, 2000 or before Estrada was ousted, the Department of Budget and Management awarded the contract to Ramos' firm.

The contract was submitted for mandatory review by the National Economic Development Authority during the assumption of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ramos said Boncodin submitted the contract on April 4 this year to Neda with a certificate of completed staff work.

On April 18, she said Neda wrote Boncodin asking her to submit additional documents to facilitate the review.

She said Bondocin has not submitted the documents inspite of Neda's request and several letters from PDHIC and Interior Secretary Jose Lina asking about the status of the contract.

Ramos said the requested documents by Neda have long been prepared and are still with Boncodin.

She said the "unjustified inaction and inordinate delay" courtesy of Boncodin indicates a "desire to favor others unduly."

Ramos said the amount intended for the acquisition of the firetrucks could be reverted to the treasury and then allocated for another firm next year.

"It has been more than two years since PDHIC's calvary began," Ramos said in her complaint-affidavit.

She said she had never been more confused about dealing with the government.

"As a member of the original Cory Yellow Brigade in 1985-86, I have kept the faith. When she sounded the clarion call for change last year, my friends and I joined her at Edsa. I do not claim reward for investing in our children's future but I certainly feel I am entitled to even the elementary courtesy," she said.

Boncodin was in a meeting when the INQUIRER called up to get her side.

ANGARA

'Look who's talking'

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday took exception to the call made by President Macapagal-Arroyo who had called on a one-year moratorium on politicking during the National Economic Summit last Monday.

"She should start with herself, she should stop politicking," Angara said in an ambush interview at the Senate.

Angara said Ms Macapagal "does not understand what she is asking from the opposition."

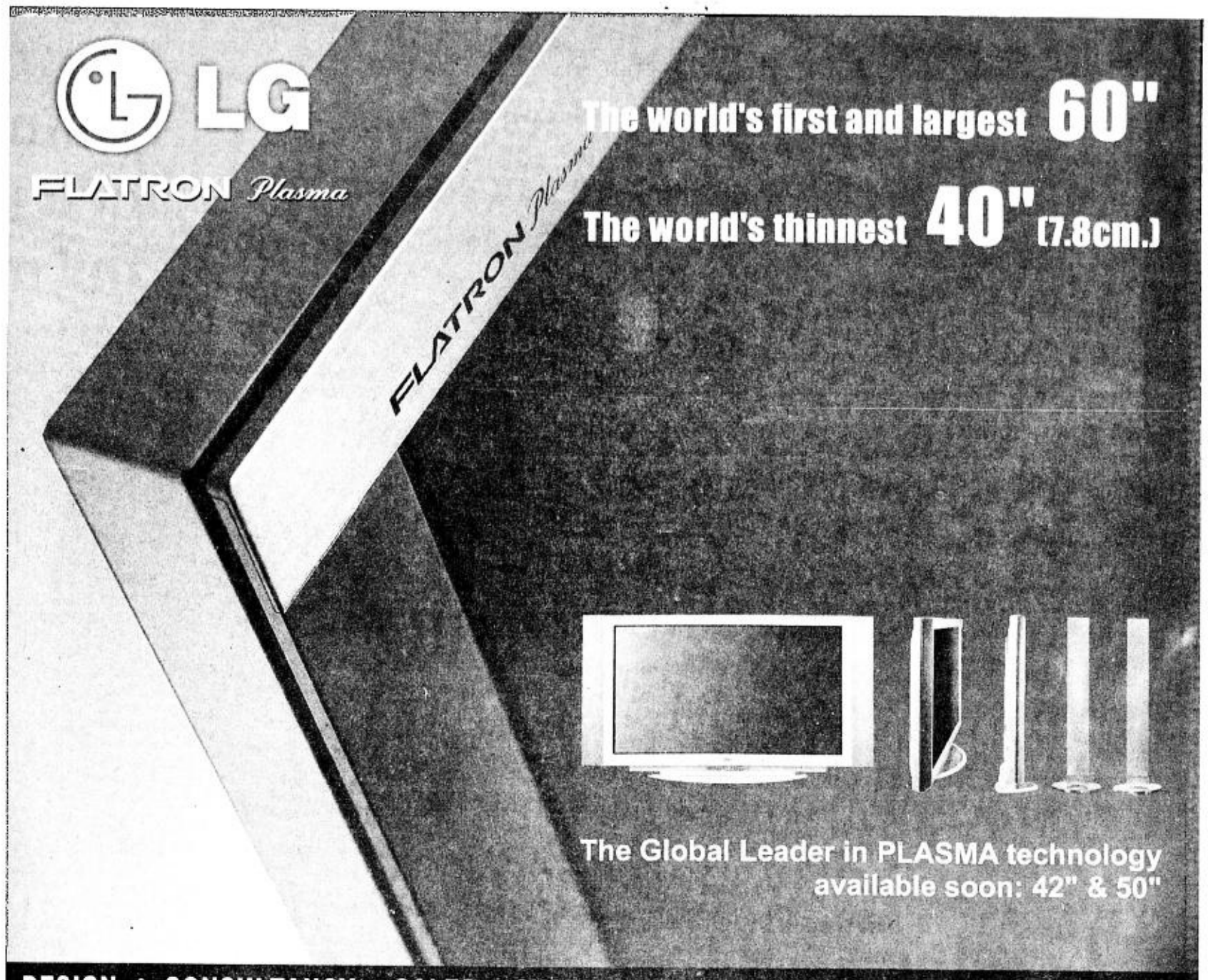
"That there be no more political criticism? Then what would be the role of the opposition?" Angara asked.

He pointed out that a "true democratic leader would not close her administration to criticism that what it may be doing is wrong or bad."

"(Criticisms) are the only way to correct herself and her administration," he said.

Angara said the opposition would only stop criticizing the President and her administration if "there will be no more foolishness and only good deeds in her government."

"For her to say that there should be a moratorium on political criticisms, that would be undemocratic," Angara said.

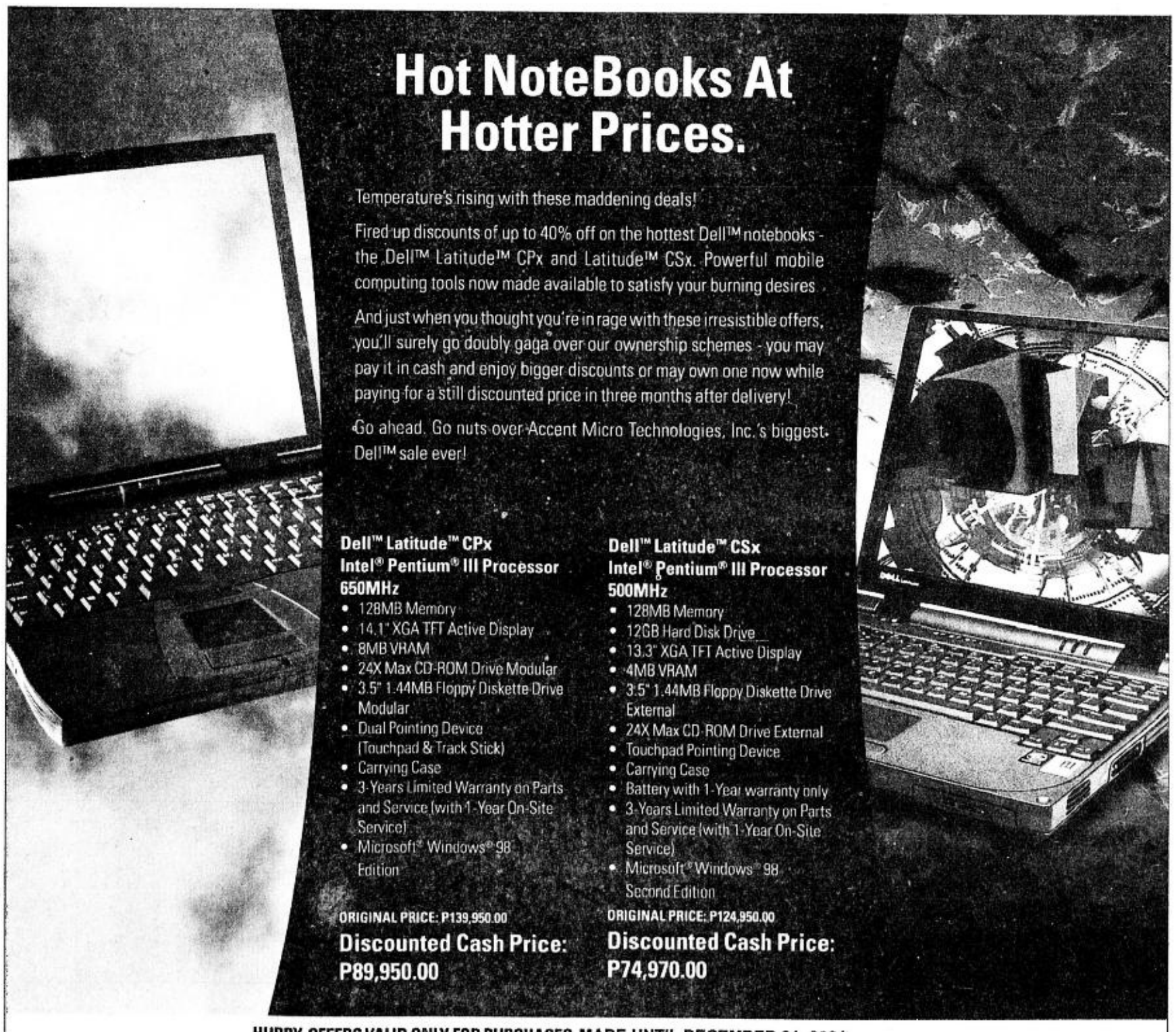


DESIGN • CONSULTANCY • SALES • SYSTEM INTEGRATION • RENTAL • AV FURNITURE

Master Distributor:
ImaTech Corporation
AN AUDIO VISUAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANY
Call us today for a demo
726-2243

HEAD OFFICE
5th Flr. Peaksun Bldg., 1505 Princeton St. cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City, Philippines 1550
Tel.No.: (632) 726-2243 • Fax No.: (632) 726-2330 • E-mail: info@imatech.com.ph

CEBU BRANCH
Door 1, Yap Apartment, La Guardia Apas, Lahug, Cebu City, 6000
Tel.No.: (032) 231-2195, 232-6134 • Fax No.: (032) 231-2195 • E-mail: imacebu@gsilink.com



Hot NoteBooks At Hotter Prices.

Temperature's rising with these maddening deals!

Fired up discounts of up to 40% off on the hottest Dell™ notebooks - the Dell™ Latitude™ CPx and Latitude™ CSx. Powerful mobile computing tools now made available to satisfy your burning desires.

And just when you thought you're in rage with these irresistible offers, you'll surely go doubly gaga over our ownership schemes - you may pay it in cash and enjoy bigger discounts or may own one now while paying for a still discounted price in three months after delivery!

Go ahead. Go nuts over Accent Micro Technologies, Inc.'s biggest Dell™ sale ever!

Dell™ Latitude™ CPx
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 650MHz
- 128MB Memory
- 14.1" XGA TFT Active Display
- 8MB VRAM
- 24X Max CD-ROM Drive Modular
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Diskette Drive Modular
- Dual Pointing Device (Touchpad & Track Stick)
- Carrying Case
- 3-Years Limited Warranty on Parts and Service (with 1-Year On-Site Service)
- Microsoft® Windows® 98 Edition

ORIGINAL PRICE: P139,950.00
Discounted Cash Price: P89,950.00

Dell™ Latitude™ CSx
Intel® Pentium® III Processor 500MHz
- 128MB Memory
- 12GB Hard Disk Drive
- 13.3" XGA TFT Active Display
- 4MB VRAM
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Diskette Drive External
- 24X Max CD-ROM Drive External
- Touchpad Pointing Device
- Carrying Case
- Battery with 1-Year warranty only
- 3-Years Limited Warranty on Parts and Service (with 1-Year On-Site Service)
- Microsoft® Windows® 98 Second Edition

ORIGINAL PRICE: P124,950.00
Discounted Cash Price: P74,970.00

HURRY, OFFERS VALID ONLY FOR PURCHASES MADE UNTIL DECEMBER 21, 2001
Give your business the notebook you need. Call our local Dell distributor now to speak with an expert about the notebook that's right for you

ACCENT-MICRO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Manila : Suite 1408 14F Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Cebu : Suite 705 7F Golden Peak Tower, Gorordo Ave, cor. N. Escario St. Cebu City E-mail: to sales@amti.com.ph,

Dell™ PCs use genuine Microsoft® Windows®
www.microsoft.com/piracy/howtotell

DELL'S NORMAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY AND ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE OR UPON REQUEST. Pricing, specifications and availability subject to change without notice. All efforts will be made to check for errors in typography and photography; however inadvertent errors may occur for which Dell may not be responsible. Dell, the Dell logo, and Lat tude are registered trademarks or trademarks of Dell Computer Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. Intel, the Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Other trademarks and trade names may be used in this document to refer to either the entities claiming marks and names or their products. Dell disclaims proprietary interest in the marks and names of others. Copyright 2001 Dell Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.

intel inside pentium® III

DELL™
BUY DELL
MANILA 637 3254/638 3563
CEBU 032 233 7933/233 7937
or visit www.amti.com.ph

Acting ARMM governor agrees to yield post

COTABATO CITY—The acting governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao finally agreed to allow newly elected governor Dr. Parouk Hussin to assume office.

However, Alvarez Isnaji said he could only allow Hussin to perform as governor of the five-province region on Jan. 2 next year.

Isnaji admitted his decision was prompted by an offer from Malacañang "that is difficult to refuse."

He would not give other details though.

Isnaji, who assumed the position after Nur Misuari was suspended by Malacañang following the siege of Jolo and Zamboanga last month, was earlier summoned to the Palace and met with Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Interior Secretary Joey Lina and Presidential Assistant for Regional Concern Norberto Gonzales.

The meeting was scheduled in an effort by Malacañang to strike a compromise agreement with Isnaji, who would not let Hussin assume.

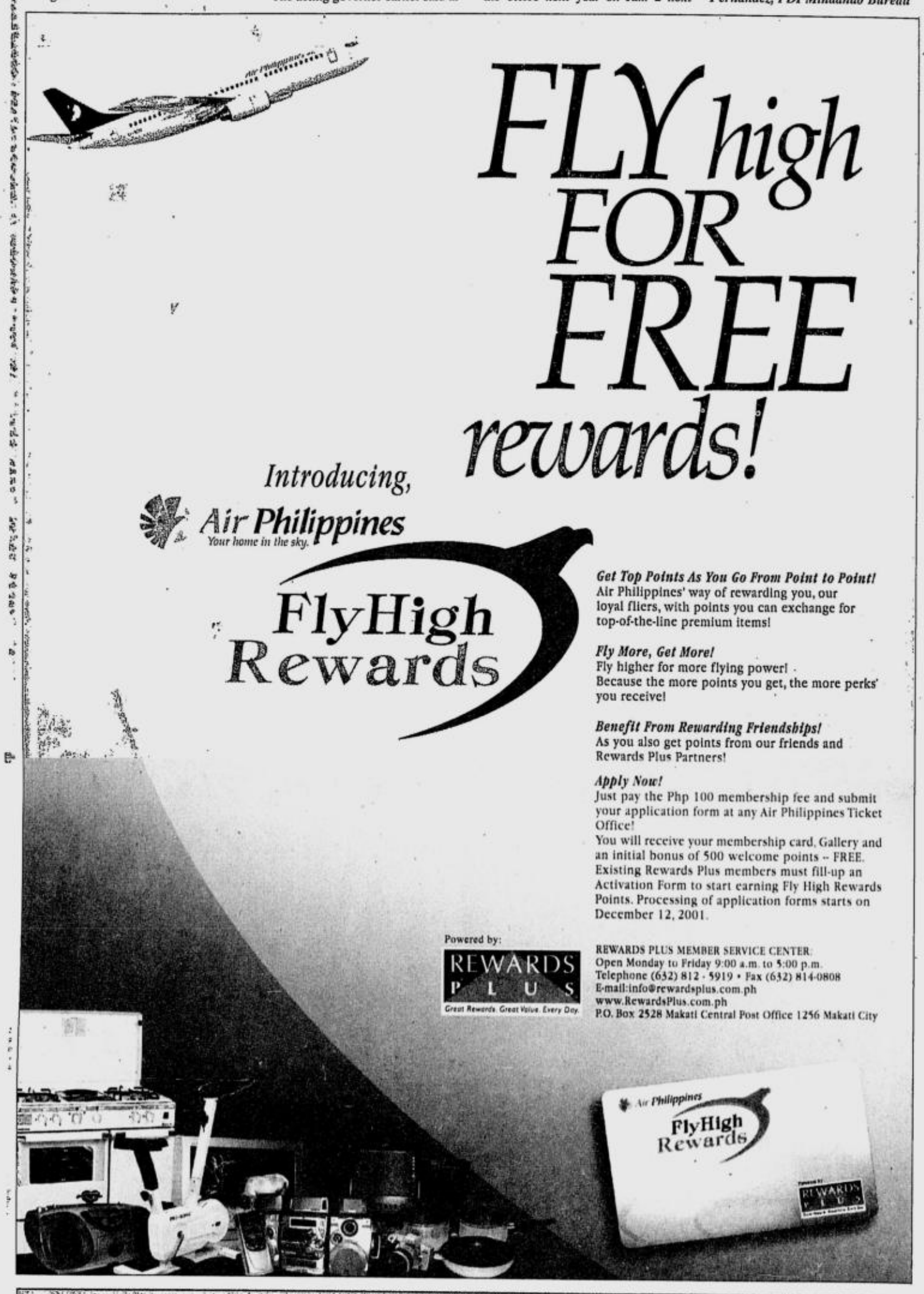
The acting governor earlier said allowing Hussin to assume office before Sept. 30, 2002 would contradict RA 9054, the law on the expanded ARMM.

Isnaji said RA 9054 is clear about the start of the term of office of newly elected ARMM officials.

"Hence, newly elected officials (in the Nov. 26 polls) can only assume office on Sept. 30, 2002 as mandated by RA 9054," Isnaji said.

But after the Malacañang meeting, Isnaji declared he was ready to vacate the office next year on Jan. 2 next year.

"Let it be known that I am still the acting regional governor of ARMM and shall exercise the duties, powers and functions of the ORG until such time that I shall turn over the reign of ARMM government to Gov. Parouk Hussin pursuant to RA 9054," Isnaji told Secretary Emilia Boncodin when he requested to "put on hold all releases to ARMM and its creditors except for releases intended for salaries of regular employees." *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



John O blocks defense budget for modernization

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

SEN. John Osmeña yesterday blocked any budget allocation for the Armed Forces Modernization Fund in 2002, recommending the slashing of the proposed P10 billion for the fund, saying the military does not need the extra money and would just use it for big-ticket items which he described as frivolous.

Osmeña, the finance committee chair, recommended P13.9 billion in cuts to the proposed 2002 national budget.

In his sponsorship speech, he recommended reducing the House-approved P780.8-billion money measure to P766.9 billion.

Osmeña explained that he was opposed to the military's plan to use the money to buy 2 to 3 corvettes, or battleships, which he said were not urgently needed.

The Armed Forces would have spent P1.5 billion to acquire the 90-meter ships that would have been used to secure the Malampaya natural gas project and the Kalayaan islands, the portion of the disputed Spratly Islands group that the Philippines claims.

"I say they don't need it. Last year, we gave them P5.4 billion but they only used P1 billion," he said.

"What the military needs are small arms, radios, they need transportation equipment, helicopters, they need artillery, bazookas, grenade launchers," Osmeña said.

Surplus items

He noted that US President George W. Bush has pledged to send some of the Pentagon's surplus items for free during a Washington visit by President Macapagal-Arroyo last month, a reward for the Philippines' cooperation in the war against terrorism.

But Osmeña, who said he would enlist the support of opposition legislators to win backing for his proposed cuts, also recommended "additional appropriations" that he said would give the military enough money to recruit 20,000 additional militia members, 5,000 soldiers and about 4,000 police officers.

The military has defended its modernization program, saying it was needed to boost its fight against rebel groups, including the Abu Sayyaf terrorists who are holding an American couple and a Filipina hostage.

The Senate finance committee is expected to send the proposed budget back to the House to thrash out differences and arrive at a final version during a bicameral conference later this week.

Aside from blocking the AFP Modernization Fund, Osmeña recommended slashing P3.855 billion from the Agrarian Reform Fund.

The Commission on Elections budget was also reduced by P1.4 billion, the amount representing what would have been spent for the barangay elections which have been postponed to coincide with the 2004 elections.

The budget for the Casecnan Dam power irrigation project was also reduced by P1.056 billion.

Patrol vessels

The P925 million that had been allocated to buy patrol vessels of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources was also cut.

The other cuts included P444 million from the Department of Transportation and Communication, P300 million from the Pasig Rehabilitation Fund and P274 million previously allocated to pay the Societe Generale Surveillance (SGS).

The cuts came up to P18.254 billion but Osmeña also recommended "additional appropriations" totaling P3.708 billion, resulting in a net reduction of P13.9 billion from the proposed budget.

To help the government's peace and order campaign, Osmeña recommended the appropriation of P1.731 billion to hire 3,000 new policemen, P613 million for 5,000 new soldiers and P605 million for the Citizen's Armed Force Geographical Units.

The Department of Education budget was augmented by P472 million while P145 million was added to the National Electrification Administration to expand its barangay electrification program.

The Energy Regulatory Board was also allocated P37 million more to enhance its regulatory powers.

"It is a budget that will put us into deficit by at least P156 billion," Osmeña said.

According to him, it will be the fifth straight year that the country will be experiencing huge deficits.

By next year, Osmeña noted, the country would have suffered P576.9 billion in total deficits since 1998.

Misuari followers leave Zambo camp

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Scores of gunmen loyal to detained Muslim leader Nur Misuari have left a rebel camp, leaving behind about around 50 comrades still in a standoff with the military, an Army spokesperson said yesterday.

"A sizable number of MNLF members have returned to their homes," in nearby Jolo and Basilan islands, Army Col. Alexander Yano said.

The gunmen are members of the Moro National Liberation Front, formerly a separatist guerrilla group that signed a peace treaty with Manila in 1996.

About 200 Misuari followers set up camp in the coastal village of Panubigan outside this city after attacking government installations and seizing more than 100 hostages in Zamboanga last month.

Yano said only about 50 gunmen were still holding out inside the camp and negotiations were ongoing for them to lay down their arms and peacefully disperse.

Misuari has been detained in Malaysia after fleeing a failed uprising he launched last month.

He faces rebellion charges upon his repatriation here and authorities have said they would likely keep him under tight guard in a maximum security jail.

Misuari declared a rebellion on Nov. 19 toward the end of his five-year rule as governor of a Muslim self-rule area in the south. The military repulsed his followers' plan to seize an army camp in Jolo.

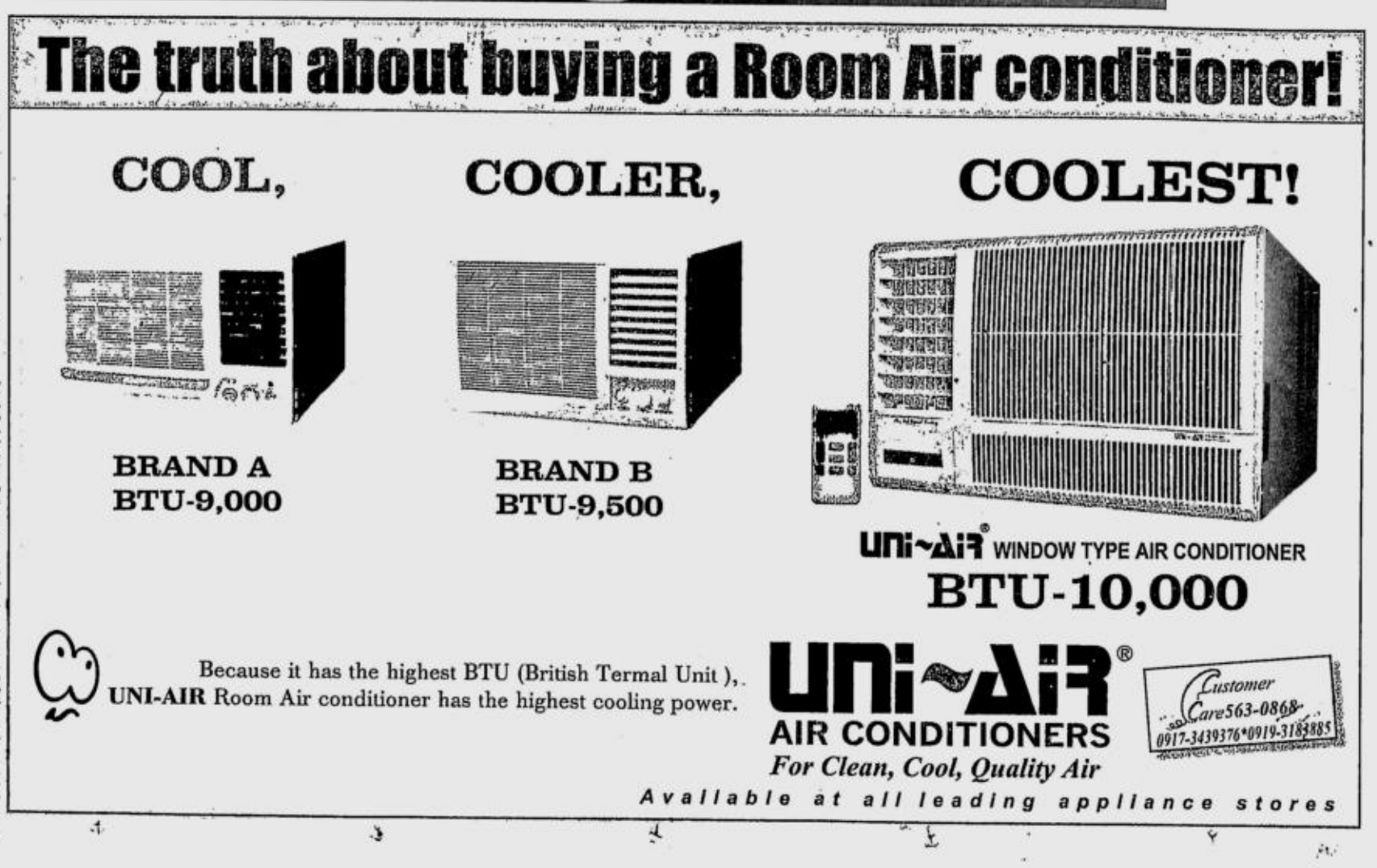
A week later his followers in Zamboanga attacked an air force base and other government installations and abducted about 113 civilians they later used as a ticket for a safe passage out of the city.

At least 141 people were killed in the two outbreaks of violence and dozens of others wounded.

In Manila, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the government was preparing for Misuari's repatriation here next month.

"We have completed gathering evidence to prove his crime of rebellion," Perez said over dzRH radio, adding that among them were the sworn statements of witnesses and video clips of Misuari declaring a fresh rebellion against Manila.

Misuari, 60, was a former Muslim separatist guerrilla until his MNLF signed a peace deal with Manila in 1996. Shortly thereafter, he was elected governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. *AFP*



Reyes, Villanueva near confirmation

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

THE COMMITTEE on defense and national security of the Commission on Appointments yesterday moved to confirm the appointments of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

This came after the committee expressed its full confidence in the merits of the appointments despite the reservations posed by Senators Sergio Osmeña III and Edgardo Angara.

The move to confirm was initiated by Sen. Robert Barbers and seconded by Sen. Blas Ople.

But the motion was held in abeyance until 9 a.m. on Dec. 18, the last plenary session of the bicameral commission before Congress goes on Christmas break.

This was due to the inability of Osmeña and Angara to attend the hearing, which coincided with the plenary debate on the proposed national budget for 2002.

Sen. Renato Cayetano said it was normal for any commission hearing for senators to pose their reservation on specific appointments.

But he said this would not necessarily alter the outcome of the voting.

Not fair

Rep. Manuel Ortega said that should Angara and Osmeña still fail to attend in the last hearing on Dec. 18, the committee will proceed to approve the motion of Barbers and set the plenary voting on the appointments on the same day.

Some committee members said it was not fair to the Armed Forces to delay the appointment of Reyes and Villanueva as this could cause instability in the military.

During the hearing, Ople said that Reyes was able to explain his defection during the Edsa 2 which led to the assumption of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as president.

Reyes told the committee that what happened in Edsa 2 should have not happened in the first place and that he was not responsible for it.

He said the confluence of events that led to Edsa 2 forced him to make a choice since the country was going through hard times.

Reyes pointed to the impairment of the impeachment process, the danger of possible bloodshed between those loyal to the then President Joseph Estrada and the Edsa 2 supporters as well as the danger of the military being divided at that time.

He also denied Ople's observation that he acted as the chief arbiter of that event, saying that he has never doubted the supremacy of the civilian over the military as espoused in the Constitution.

"We are all accountable to history, your honor. We should not have been brought to that point in the first place," Reyes said.

He continued: "That act (defection) was constitutional. It was not extra-constitutional since no less than the Supreme Court confirmed it by its 13-0 vote."

Business groups back DOTC chief

FIVE business groups, including the country's largest organization of businessmen, have endorsed the appointment of Transportation and Communication Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

The groups, the DOTC statement said, include the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop), the Philippine Confederation of Exporters (PCE), Women in Business, and Philippines Inc.

The endorsement came in the form of a common resolution signed by the presidents of the five organizations—Miguel Varela of PCCI, Donald Dee of Ecop, Sergio Ortiz-Luz Jr. of PCE, Isabelita Palanca of Women in Business and Jose Romero of Philippines Inc.

They affirmed their "trust and confidence in their integrity sense of justice and trustworthiness" of Alvarez.

Alvarez is being lined up for confirmation at the Commission on Appointments, where he is facing opposition from a group opposed to the Piatco contract to build and operate Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Alvarez said he was trying to implement a contract forged during the incumbency of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Already confirmed Cabinet members are Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Simeon Datumanong of public works and highways, Raul Roco of education, Dinky Soliman of social welfare, Richard Gordon of tourism, Hernani Braganza of agrarian reform, Manuel "Mar" Roxas of trade and industry.

There's a career in here.
JOB MARKET
www.inquirer.net/jobmarket

MARCONI FASHION GROUP
The First and Only Italian Fashion Stockhouse Chain in Asia

*2305 Marconi cor. Morse Sts. Brgy. San Isidro, Makati Tel. 843-3942
*Robinson's Galleria Tel. 637-5035
*Festival Supermall Alabang Tel. 850-4033
*SM Manila Tel. 400-7909
*MC Nenita Bldg.I A.C. Cortez Ave., Mandaue City, Cebu Tel. (032) 346-7160
*NOW OPEN Unit 2, Hilado Bldg. Lacson St., Bacolod City

LINEA ITALIA GROUP

LINEA ITALIA 6750
Ayala Avenue 752-7679 / 812-9166

PRIMA LINEA
Greenbelt Mall 819-59-17
SM Megamall 633-2070/72
Ayala Center, Cebu (032) 231-5517

LINEA ITALIA
SM Megamall 635-5695
Alabang Town Center 842-4749
Ayala Center, Cebu (032) 231-5518

VERSACE JEANS COUTURE
Greenbelt Mall 817-5437

LINEA UOMO
Park Square I 815-1227
SM Megamall 633-2071
Alabang Town Center 807-2296
SM Cebu (032) 232-1499

UOMO TU
Greenbelt Mall 812-8524
Ayala Center, Cebu (032) 231-5370

CAPOLINEA
Greenbelt Mall 893-2292
SM Cebu (032) 232-1434

VIVA
SM Megamall 633-2068
SM Cebu (032) 232-1443

www.lineaitaliagroup.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4180, Series of 2001

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 4. ISSN 0116-2642

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher

LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief

JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor

ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor

ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor

NILO B. PAUROM
Assistant News Editor

PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
National Editor

GERRY LIRIO
City Editor

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Senior Deskperson

JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor

FRANCOISE B. JOAQUIN
Night Editor

AMANDO DORONILA
Editorial Consultant

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Board Chairman

ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President

RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing

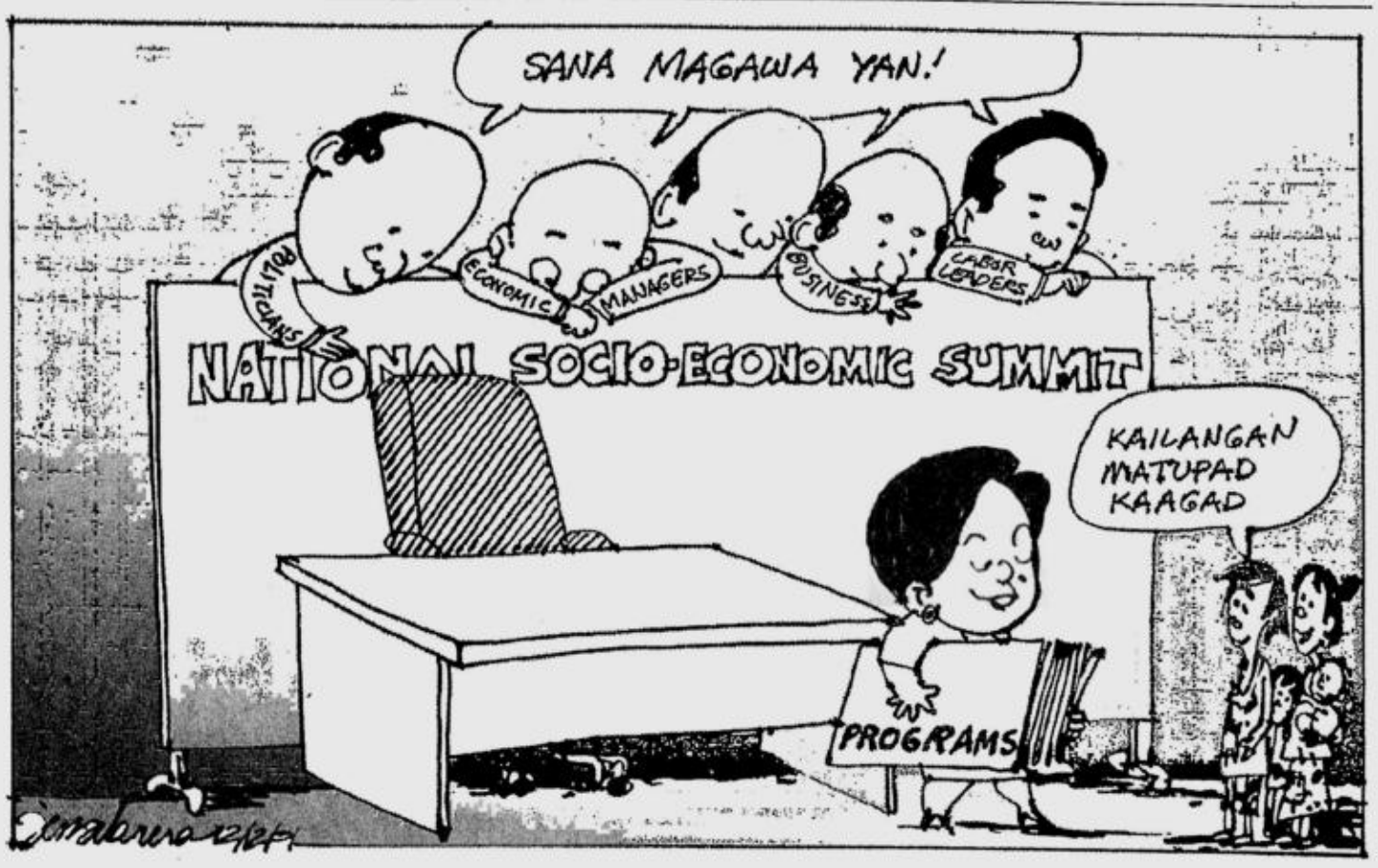
DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services

FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Advertising

GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.



Doing a Gloria

THE MALAYSIAN police have cleared renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari of everything except illegal entry. This paves the way for Kuala Lumpur to send Misuari back to Manila—and get a potentially divisive Islamic issue off its hands.

We are not privy to the "evidence" which the Philippine government submitted to Malaysian authorities in an attempt to convince them that Misuari was in part responsible for last year's Sipadan crisis. But the Malaysian police, if not the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, have apparently found it wanting.

EDITORIALS

We should not be surprised at this turn of events. While in recent years Malaysian support for Misuari has cooled, the history of the Moro National Liberation Front is rich testimony to the role that Malaysia played in the emergence of the Moro secessionist movement. Mahathir may have been ready to arrest Misuari, especially in the light of post-Sept. 11 concerns, but he does not need the distraction of detaining Misuari any longer than he has to—something which he has to answer for in the Organization of Islamic Conference.

In other words, Mahathir did a Gloria. In two high-profile cases, those of deposed President Joseph Estrada and Misuari, the President's initial reaction was to open the door for them and let other countries take on the problem. What Mahathir did therefore was simple enough: he took a page from the President's book.

Doing a Serge

WE don't mean the threat to commit the act of fornication on the Senate floor, a statement which will forever be wedded to the filibustering reputation of opposition Sen. Sergio Osmeña III. By doing a Serge we mean getting involved in ransom operations, and then distancing one's self from the consequences of participation.

Last week, yet another opposition senator was caught doing a Serge. Malacañang disclosed that Sen. Panfilo Lacson, had flown to Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, Malaysia, to meet with a Malaysian politician who brokered ransom payments last year, during the Sipadan hostage crisis.

The issue can be reduced to a very simple question: What was a senator of the Republic doing in Sabah, meeting with a ransom broker?

Lacson, the former chief of the Philippine National Police, said last week that he met with the former Malaysian senator, Sairin Karno, because he believed that with Karno's help he could obtain the release of Martin and Gracia Burnham, the American hostages kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf on May 27, without paying ransom.

In general terms, Lacson's objective seems at worst innocuous. But a closer look at the particulars reveals that either the opposition senator was breathtakingly ignorant before the meeting or brazenly dissembling after it.

Karno is not exactly an unknown quantity. As Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao recalled over the weekend, Karno was involved in the payment of ransom for some Malaysian hostages abducted at the Sipadan resort in April 2000.

After the Abu Sayyaf conducted their raid on the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan last May, Karno presented himself to Malacañang, "insisting" that he be appointed negotiator because "he would be able to talk with the Abu Sayyaf for the hostages' release," according to Tiglao. The Palace refused the offer, Tiglao said, because the government was adhering to its no-ransom policy and because Karno would have likely received a commission from the ransom payments.

If Lacson was not aware of Karno's background, he would have been guilty of a possibly fatal ignorance—the kind that jeopardizes the very lives of the hostages he now says he wanted to rescue. But surely Lacson has more intelligence than that or at least he has access to better intelligence. But if he did, then he would have been guilty of an equal offense—lying to the public.

He said last week, and repeated several times, that he could have obtained the Burnhams' release without paying ransom. This statement tests the limits of belief. How could a no-ransom release be secured through the services of a known ransom broker? The reported presence in the Sabah meeting of another erstwhile ransom broker, former Estrada adviser Li Peng Wee of Zamboanga City, only confirms the public's worst suspicions.

What probably happened was more simple and more base: Lacson smelled a political opportunity and tried to take advantage of it. After all, ransom for the Abu Sayyaf's last three hostages (the Burnhams are joined in their suffering by Filipino nurse Deborah Yap) is a more manageable amount, and if the fact of payment could be denied, the hostages' release would then have been a golden feather in his cap.

DOTC answers PAL on Terminals 2, 3 and Alvarez

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IN THE COLUMN of Dec. 6, we reported the lament of Philippine Airlines that it is being blamed as "masterminding" the present troubles facing Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez. PAL also debunked point by point the Department of Transportation and Communications' accusations against it.

In a letter to this column, DOTC spokesperson Ramon Cuveo answered, also point by point, the PAL lament. For the reader to have a complete picture, and in fairness to DOTC and Secretary Alvarez, here are pertinent excerpts from that letter:

"The Naia Terminal 3 project was conceptualized by the Lucio Tan-led Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. in 1996. The AEDC submitted a bid of P135 million for 27 years. Piatco (Philippine International Airport Terminal Corp.) challenged the bid with an offer of P17.73 billion for the same period. The AEDC was given 30 days to match the Piatco bid, but the AEDC failed to exercise the option.

"The concession agreement for the BOT (build-operate-transfer) project was signed in 1997 and amended in 1998, long before Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez was appointed DOTC chief. Four years later and after massive investments have been poured into the project (it is now 60 percent complete), Mr. Lucio Tan now wants to stop the project."

• On PAL's claim that it has been paying terminal charges for Terminal 2:

"PAL has been occupying all slots at Terminal 2 without a valid contract."

• On PAL's P1.8 billion arrears to the Manila International Airport Administration (MIAA) for aeronautical fees: The DOTC letter confirms PAL's assertion that the impasse was caused by an "opinion" of the solicitor general that PAL's franchise exempts it from paying aeronautical fees and that the MIAA countered that it is not a "ruling" and continued to charge PAL the said fees. The DOTC also confirmed that PAL is paying half (at its own request because the MIAA is short of cash, according to PAL but which fact the DOTC failed to mention) of the fees being charged. PAL had also said that it wants the court to make a definite ruling, but that the DOTC has not, until now, brought it to court. The DOTC letter does not say why it has not done so.

• On the claim that PAL has "exclusive use" of Terminal 2:

PAL said that Terminal 2 is open for use by other airlines but that (quoting Naia Director Edgar Manda) these others did not accept his offer for them to move there because it was not advantageous for them to move for "practical and financial reasons." The other domestic airlines have older planes that cannot be accommodated by Terminal 2 which was built for newer planes, and that they would have to spend more because they would have to have two separate ground crews.

The DOTC letter does not mention this. It said, however: "How can they move there when PAL has fully occupied all choice slots? In fact, PAL even uses portions of Terminal 1 because Terminal 2 could not accommodate all its planes there."

• On the plunder case filed against Alvarez by the MIAA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Maso) and Perfecto Yasay Jr. and Jovino Lorenzo Jr.:

"Its sole basis was the alleged overpayment of P56 million to Wintrack, thus putting the case within the ambit of the anti-plunder law. They also claimed that there was fraud by conspiracy among the officers of Wintrack, Piatco and MIAA. They said that Jeffrey Cheng, son of Cheng Yong of Piatco, is a personal friend of Alvarez while Wintrack is controlled and managed by associates and members of the family of the secretary.

"But in the first place, Alvarez is not Wintrack, and Wintrack is not Alvarez. The complainants drag Alvarez into the picture by mere association without even alleging any criminal knowledge or participation on his part. But as the law clearly states, proof of association is not proof of conspiracy.

"In the second place, the one and only source of the complainants' information that there was conspiratorial fraud is the purported affidavit of a certain Venner Mojica Mendoza. This purported affidavit was disowned by the real Venner Mendoza. In an affidavit submitted to the Ombudsman dated Sept. 10, 2001, Mendoza denied having signed the affidavit presented by the complainants.

"This brazen attempt at trickery and deception by Maso and Yasay and Lorenzo is an apparent indication that the plunder case against Alvarez is baseless and unfounded.

"We were not looking for scapegoats as PAL claims, when we said Tan is the mastermind behind the anti-Naia 3 project and the smear campaign against Alvarez. The collusion among Tan, Ricky Delgado of Miascor and Yasay of Maso is very evident. It is common knowledge in the industry that the bulk of Maso's membership is directly under the control of Tan.

"In fact, it is Tan who is looking for a scapegoat when he persists in blaming Alvarez for the Naia 3 bidding that he miserably lost fair and square."

Leading by example

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT was what House Speaker Jose de Venecia said. It was what Senate President Franklin Drilon said. And it was what President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself said. The call of the day was a respite on sectarian politics. The order of the day was a break on politicking. That was one of the main themes of the Socio-Economic Summit, which began last Monday.

President Macapagal would say in her speech that she was repeating the challenge she issued in her State of the Nation Address: She wants a one-year moratorium on mudslinging and fault-finding. She begs everyone to desist from that insidious pastime and buckle down to work. She wasn't alone to feel that way, she said, most Filipinos did. In her various appearances, she said, the one thing audiences applauded loudest was that plea. The public was tired of acrimony and adversarial politics. It was time this country's leaders heeded that message.

That of course was the same call the business community sounded some weeks ago. Enough of the bickering, let all of us chip in and help bring the country back on its feet.

I can believe that sentiment is not confined to the business community alone or to Malacañang. I can believe it is fairly widespread. I myself have heard it in several gatherings. The unrelenting efforts of the opposition to embarrass government were only embarrassing them unrelentingly. And they were stonewalling progress.

One person I know went on to suggest a moratorium on blue ribbon committee hearings. All those hearings on corruption, he said, were no longer doing any good, they were beginning to do harm. They were claiming undue Congress time, which could be better spent in deliberating important bills. None of the hearings in any case produced any results, other than to drive a wedge farther between Erap's and Ms Macapagal's supporters. Civil society, he said, had a point: You have pending matters like the overseas vote, the disposition of the coconut levy and teeming homelessness in Metro Manila, it's criminal to see senators and congressmen spending their time raking muck against each other.

I can sympathize with all of this. But I should think the advice should apply to everyone and not just to the opposition. I should think the advice should apply to Ms Macapagal's own camp. I should think the advice should apply to Ms Macapagal herself.

I don't know how she can persuade the opposition to stop using the Senate to hear out people who have a gripe against her when she did the same thing to Sen. Panfilo Lacson some months ago. Whether that hearing was motivated by the President's desire to eliminate a potential rival—as Lacson charged—or not is beside the point. That was how the public perceived it. For many reasons. One is that it happened just when the First Gentleman was in the thick of the public eye for possible wrongdoing. Two was that it brought out no solid proof against Lacson after two whole months, making it look to the public like a simple—or extended—case of harassment.

I did—and do—think Lacson is guilty of wrongdoing, but that is not the point. The point is to prove it. I did say then that unless government had a better case against Lacson, it should abandon its effort altogether. It was clearly going nowhere, and the monumental danger was that it would set a calamitous precedent. If you can have a Senate hearing for two months without any of your witnesses directly linking a public official you are accusing of wrongdoing to the wrongdoing, you cannot prevent others from doing the same thing. You will at least not have the moral authority to prevent it.

But I still think it's not too late for a moratorium on politicking, or bickering, or muckraking to be made. I still think it is not too late for the opposition and the government coalition to rise beyond their petty selves and do something for their country. The trick lies in the President herself. Ms Macapagal has repeatedly hurled that challenge at everyone. I can only think to hurl that challenge right back at her. She wants everyone to stop politicking, she wants everyone to serve the people, she can do one surefire, foolproof, guaranteed thing to make that happen:

She can vow not to run in 2004.

Or better still, she can dare the leaders of the opposition to sign a covenant that says none of them will run for president in 2004. Ms Macapagal does that, and for the next two-and-a-half years, she will have the unstinting support of every self-respecting citizen of this country. She does that, and she will instantly gain a very high moral ground, a mountain from which to thunder forth her exhortations for this country to aspire to greatness. She does that, and she will be remembered as the one President who had the vision and idealism to sacrifice self-interest for the good of the country.

Frankly, I don't know why the business community, which has been loudest at lamenting the cantankerousness and aimlessness of our leaders, should not take this position. Frankly, I don't know why civil society, which has been loudest at lamenting the pettiness and selfishness of our leaders, should not make this demand. I cannot see how a covenant of this sort would unduly dispossess this country of its best and brightest. No one is indispensable, not Marcos, not Cory, not Ramos, not Erap and not Ms Macapagal.

It's a cardinal principle in life: You want others to make sacrifices, you must make one yourself. A principle, not quite incidentally, that the businessmen, who keep asking their workers to sacrifice for them, would do well to learn. To whom much is given, much is expected. To whom much is invested, much is demanded. The President wants everyone to chip in to make things better, the chipping in must begin with her. That is the only way we'll know she means business.

Otherwise, all that business about a moratorium on politicking is just a lot of, well, politicking.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Big Mac in Balayan Church

COMMENTARY

John L. Silva

WE all grew up knowing the biblical story of Jesus throwing the moneychangers out of the temple. Jesus was transformed from a usually meek man to one enraged, using a whip to drive away the business louts. The message was clear: Businesses and places of worship do not mix.

Fr. Ernesto Mandanas, parish priest of the Balayan Church, has forgotten Jesus' admonition. He has allowed a McDonald's outlet to be built on church grounds. He and Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales have agreed to put a McDonald's not only in the town but also on the grounds of the Batangas Cathedral. If they have their way, the ringing of cash registers and the smell of hamburger will co-mingle with the ringing of the bell during the transformation of the host and the scent of incense. Jesus would be so upset at this prospect and would rise up again if only to go after the money-hungry priests.

Why does Father Mandanas want the money? It seems he needs it to build a home for the aging priests of the archdiocese. That's a compassionate reason. But the way these priests are going about it, they violate the basic principle that religious entities are exempt from paying taxes because they are in the business of saving souls and not making money. Once the church starts using its resources, like property, to make a profit, it loses its non-profit status.

Parishioners who have benefited from the religious counsel and guidance of priests have a responsibility to care for them in their twilight years. Parishioners have many ways of raising funds, but desecrating church grounds with a commercial establishment shouldn't be one of them.

It has been estimated that the parish will receive up to P100,000 a month in rentals from McDonald's. But suspicions have arisen because the parishioners have not been informed as to the size of the rest home and how many elderly priests will need care there in the last years of their lives.

The violation of tax laws isn't what riles most the people of Balayan and those who value heritage conservation. Spanish colonial churches are the most distinctive identity markers of the nation, rivaling the Banaue Rice Terraces and the Tubataha Reefs and other natural wonders in this country. Yet, an untold number of churches have been destroyed by ignorant parish priests who have altered façades, painted over frescoes, chipped off architectural details, and in extreme cases, totally demolished a structure for a hideous "modern" replacement.

In the case of Balayan, the planned McDonald's will cover the church from one angle of the road and pose many aesthetic and practical problems. Will the huge golden arch now be raised higher than the church steeple? Will other parts of the church grounds be used for parking? Will the diners enter McDonald's through the main church entrance or will they tear down the grilled wall of the church? Apparently blinded by money, Father Mandanas will now make McDonald's, its corporate symbol and its dining function overshadow the solemnity and spirituality of church grounds and probably drive away parishioners and devotees from the Catholic Church.

McDonald's, an American corporation, has decided to go ahead and build on a property that has carried a National Historical Institute marker since Dec. 8, 1986. The Balayan Church was also deemed as a National Cultural Treasure along with 26 other churches in 2000 by the National Museum. In addition, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts has nominated this and the other churches for restoration and as a flagship project for the millennium. McDonald's brazen and anti-Filipino act can only be matched if Jollibee were to set up an outlet on the steps of the St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Benjie Martinez, the former mayor of Balayan, fought successfully during his term not to have McDonald's placed on church grounds. A local ordinance was passed to ensure there would be no such construction.

But soon after Martinez ended his term last July 31, the Sangguniang Bayan declared the ordinance null and void. By November, a portion of the church grounds allotted for the project, had been fenced off. And today, diggings and earthmoving are occurring on the site, since Father Mandanas was issued a building permit last Oct. 25.

The McDonald's construction on church grounds blasphemes the religiosity of our people and insults a nation that is trying very hard to preserve the heritage of our country. Allowing this to happen is a green signal for other commercial establishments to mushroom on other church grounds throughout the country. Our children will grow up spiritless, knowing only foreign consumer indulgence rather than a love for their faith and their country.

Express your opposition to this construction by calling Fr. Ernesto Mandanas today at 043-2114-371 (office), 043-2115-327 (house) or 043-407-0364 (fax). Tell Jojo Samson, McDonald's communication director, your opposition to the construction and ask them to stop it immediately. His Tel. No. is 815-9683. You can also bring pressure on McDonald's by declaring you will encourage all your friends to express their sentiments and boycott McDonald's products until the construction is stopped.

John L. Silva is a consultant of the National Museum.

Christmas candles

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ONE Christmas many years ago, when we had less disposable income but more time, energy and creativity, the hubby and I decided to make our own Christmas gifts. The item we settled on was candles—at a time, mind you, when hand-made candles were not yet the craft item of the moment, and candles were not yet the must-have accessory for the home.

The hubby is both an artist and a craftsman, and he typically prepared for the task by researching just how candles are made. He then discovered where we could buy paraffin blocks (in Divisoria), and by asking around, how we could create our own molds and dyes. The latter was rather quick and easy—drop pieces of Crayola into the melted paraffin to get your desired color.

And so on weekends and every evening for about a month, we would hurry home to our old house in Mandaluyong (which actually belonged to my in-laws) to work on our candles. We fashioned our crude molds from whatever was on hand: empty baby powder containers, a set of plastic bins that had been a baby-shower gift, tin cans, even cups and saucers. My contribution consisted of grunge work: oiling the molds, preparing the wick and tin weight, and pushing out the candles once the paraffin had hardened. My only creative task was the wording on the gift tags to explain that these were candles "made by hand but with all our hearts."

As usual, it was Pie who had the most fun of all. He would stand before our stove, stirring the melting paraffin in an old paint can (we wanted to spare our one and only aluminum pot from disaster), while thinking up imaginative ways to jazz up our candles. (Trust an artist to want to innovate even as he has just learned a skill.)

* * *

FOR INSTANCE, he discovered that if you drop ice cubes into the paraffin just before it hardens, they create cracks and pockmarks that make the candles look like abstract sculptures. (Personally, I found them really ugly, but Pie thought they were just dandy. I made sure to give them only to "creative" friends or those I could count on to be polite.)

He enjoyed experimenting with the colors, and even mixing bits of different colored crayons to see what hues would emerge. Then he thought of lining the molds with bits of foil or tinsel, or leaves, to dress up the candles.

As I remember it, our family and friends loved our candles! No one, as far as I can recall, returned our gifts, literally, to return a candle which in our culture means to sever a relationship.

* * *

THE MEMORY of those Christmas candles rose unbidden because this morning I had to rise early to save our annual "Christmas letter" on a diskette so I could give it to the hubby to lay-out and design. When he complained that he was going to be late for work, I grumbled: "Well, just wait a minute; I need to get this ready because it seems I'm the only member of this family in charge of Christmas around here."

As I write this, our tree stands forlorn, garlanded in Christmas lights but bereft of trimmings. While I was away in Baguio the other weekend, Pie texted me that they had put up the Christmas tree but would wait for me before trimming it. Well, it's been almost two weeks, but the tree is bare as ever. All around our living room are *balikbayan* boxes filled with Christmas items in their dusty newspaper wrappings. No one has the time to unwrap them and decorate the house. I, of course, looked after my *belen* collection first, and have in fact set up a few of them. But the others remain scattered around the living room like lost pilgrims, while some remain buried deep in the *balikbayan* boxes.

For about a month now, I've been tearing through malls and *tiangges* doing the Christmas shopping, and these days, stealing minutes from my schedule to wrap the danged items. Last night, my daughter volunteered to help me gift-wrap, but after a few frustrating tries, got up and announced she would rather do her Math homework.

Which is why, dear reader, I am driven to nostalgia for the days when there was enough time and space in our lives to sit down in our kitchen and make candles by hand, when Christmas was not yet a chore.

* * *

TODAY, the family of my late uncle, Dr. Cesar J. Duran, will lay him to rest at the Sorsogon Catholic Cemetery after the 8 a.m. Mass.

Too late do I recall Tio Cesar's stern visage, as I greeted him after I stood as sponsor at his granddaughter's wedding, telling me: "Come visit me in Legazpi (where he set up his medical practice) soon. And that's not an invitation, that's an order!" I smiled, even made plans, but as always, the trip got pushed out by other priorities.

He deserved better. He was, after all, not just my Papa's first cousin, but also his best and lifelong friend. My oldest brother Chip, who died as an infant in Polomolok before the war, was named after him. He was a constant presence in family parties, one I remember for his jocular personality and mock-stern admonitions.

Bicolanos remember him for being such a fine doctor, patients insisted on seeing him long after he was supposed to retire. My Tita Sally would recall that patients would insist to Tio Cesar's partner: "I want to see Dr. Duran—the old one." Tio Cesar would then grumpily complain: "I'll stop seeing you if you keep calling me old."

Loving condolences to Tita Sally (Tio Cesar's wife and constant companion for 65 years!), and to their children Boy and Amy, Ping and Evelyn, Manny and Jo, Pete and Joy, Nonoy and Malou, Betty and Danny.

Pigafetta through Filipino eyes

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AFTER READING Antonio Pigafetta's narrative of the Magellan expedition, Juan Luna made a sketch of the battle of Mactan and dedicated it to his friend Jose Rizal. That sketch, completed in November 1890, has never been found and is believed to have been one of the cultural casualties of the Battle for Manila in 1945. This sketch may not have been as large and impressive as the "Spoliarium" but it is significant for Filipino historians struggling with their own history. Luna in his own way, tried to understand Pigafetta from a Filipino viewpoint explaining to Rizal:

"I have made a sketch of the death of Magellan according to the description of Pigafetta; it is a very important event in our history. If I give it the title 'Death of Magellan,' it is a tribute of admiration for this great man (a Portuguese to boot, as Blumentritt would say); but if I make it, as it should be, 'Victory of Lapulapu and flight of the Spaniards' instead of 'Death of Magellan,' every ridiculous fellow will criticize it, and the painter will be finished and the poor citizen will find himself against the wall. At any rate, I am dedicating this sketch to you, that is, if you like it."

Although Luna was not a trained historian, he was practicing history as part of his being Filipino. It is fascinating to imagine Luna reading and rereading Pigafetta turning the pro-Magellan, pro-Spanish viewpoint around 360 degrees and reinterpreting it from a Filipino viewpoint. My undergraduate students go through the same exercise when given a selection from Pigafetta. For many of the students Pigafetta is a peek into the pre-colonial Philippines. Among other things, the text tells students about an abundance of gold jewelry worn by the people encountered by Magellan; they also learned about penis rings and the varied uses of the coconut. Pigafetta makes them rethink controversial things like the First Mass or "Magellan's Cross" in downtown Cebu. Students wonder how Enrique (or Henry), who Magellan picked up in Malacca, was able to talk to pre-colonial Visayans. Pigafetta is a fascinating read particularly the account of the battle of Mactan.

Reading the Skelton translation of the Pigafetta manuscript in Yale University, I was confused over references to the lord of Mactan, Zula, who complained about the lord of Cilapulapu. Is Lapulapu a name or a place? In three other manuscripts it is clear that there are two chiefs of Mactan namely Zula and Cilapulapu. Zula wanted to pledge allegiance to Magellan but was prevented by Lapulapu. Before the battle, Magellan sent Enrique to Mactan with an ultimatum—they should obey the king of Spain and pay tribute. Furthermore, they should recognize Humabon of Cebu as their lord or "they shall learn by experience how our lances pierce." The defiant reply from Mactan was that, "they had lances of bamboo hardened in the fire and stakes dried in the fire....attack when you will."

Magellan started early in the morning thus, being low-tide, their ships could not get close to shore. Worse, Mactan was not within the firing range of their cannons. Despite this handicap, Magellan proudly refused reinforcements offered by Humabon. Did he actually think 49 men could handle an estimated 1,050 Mactan warriors? Another source estimates the Mactan side as having 3,000 to 4,000 men. With figures like these, it is obvious that Magellan was at the losing end. Even if Lapulapu and his men used their bare hands, Magellan's group was not just sitting ducks, they were *dead* ducks. The battle began with an exchange of arrows and lances for about half an hour until Magellan decided to change plans. To distract the enemy and stop the rain of arrows, bamboo lances tipped with iron and stones, Magellan ordered some houses on the shore burned. This enraged them even more. Magellan was hit on the leg by a poisoned arrow and ordered a retreat. Pigafetta noted that the Mactan warriors aimed at their legs which were not protected by armor. Then Pigafetta wrote:

"...Recognizing the captain, they turned toward him inasmuch as twice they hurled arrows very close to his head. But as a good captain and knight he still stood fast with some others, fighting thus for more than an hour. And as he refused to retire further, an Indian threw a bamboo lance at his face, and the captain immediately killed him with his lance, leaving it in his body. Then trying to lay hand on his sword, he could draw it out but halfway, because of a wound from a bamboo lance that he had in his arm. Which seeing; all those people threw themselves on him, and one of them with a large javelin (which is like a partisan, only thicker), thrust it into his left leg, whereby he fell face downward. On this, all at once rushed upon him with lances of iron and of bamboo with these javelins, so they slew our mirror, our light, our comfort and out true guide."

In the popular imagination, the muscular Lapulapu slays Magellan. That's not in Pigafetta. Some say Lapulapu had control of fish, crabs, swordfish and other sea creatures and used these against the invader. This is definitely not in Pigafetta. Maybe seeing things from a Filipino viewpoint has a way of creating its own fictions.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Who's old?

HIGH BLOOD

Mart R. del Rosario

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

IT'S tough to be male—and old.

Or to be called old when you don't feel you are. The teeth are still complete. The hair is still there, although thinner than it used to be. And in the morning, when you get up to use the bathroom, there's that hard, reassuring evidence that you have lost little of your vigor and vitality.

But when you are old, you are old. And people will call you so regardless of how you feel or think you feel.

I'm flirting with this toothsome umbrella girl at the Veterans and thinking I'm making progress. And also thinking, "*Andyan pa rin, hindi pa kumukupas,*" referring to my self-perceived expertise at seduction.

Then, Miss Toothsome drops the bomb: "Sir, *para ko na kayong lolo*!"

Is there anything more devastating? To a 60-year-old's ego, that is? Miss Toothsome does not even attempt to be nice and tactful. She can say "*tatay*," which will knock off some years from my age. At the very least, 10. But she chooses to be mean and says "*lolo*." And instantly I'm thrown into the land of the ancients.

Psychologists say that the pre-teen years are the most awkward period in one's life. At that stage, you are neither a child nor an adult, and so you look awkward when you act either way. Do you agree? I don't.

I'll say the most awkward life-stage is when you hit 60. Especially if you're fit—physically and mentally. Sure, you have passed the half-century mark age-wise but in many cases you can still do things better than the young 'uns can. Like, you can lift an object heavier than a beer bottle, and do multiplications without the aid of a calculator.

You pop a couple of pills after every meal, maybe, and your joints ache when the weather is cold. But other than that and the streaks of silver on both sides of your head, you feel the same at 60 as when you were 20. You feel young. You think young. You like 'em young.

But try to act like you were a young buck and see if you don't get laughed out of the planet.

Acting like you were a Leonardo DiCaprio instead of more aptly like a doddering Marlon Brando could get you into more trouble than merely being called senile and on to your second childhood.

A friend once tried to go to a costume party dressed as a teenager. He wore an oversized T-shirt, baggy slacks, some beads and studs in both ears. The barangay tanods nearly brought him in for commitment. They actually, truly mistook him for a nut!

Another friend, let's call him Mandy, loves to tell this anecdote which I thoroughly enjoy. Mandy owns a two-door '65 Mustang Convertible which he has restored to mint condition.

One day, he decides to take the car out for a spin down Ayala Avenue to see if he'll attract attention. He does. At a traffic stop, a couple of teenagers lean out of their car and yell, quite seriously: "*Tatang, hindi bagay sa inyo 'yan!*

Last I heard, Mandy has shipped his chariot to his vacation house in Laguna, drives it around southern towns where people are more civilized and just ogle at the car, caring not a whit about the age of its driver.

Ben is a golfmate. He has an extended family—meaning, he extends himself to seven...well, a few families that stretch all the way to California. Our crowd ribs him that if he chooses to run for public office, no way he would lose given the multiplicity of bases of support that he's got. To which he ruefully replies: "Yeah, I really got multiple bases to support."

But Ben has got something there. One way to deflect the ribbing you get on account of your age is to claim that it's not age that matters, it's when **that** matter ages.

Only problem here is you might be challenged to prove it. And you flunk.

A memorable scene in the movie, "Primary Colors" is about an aging Lothario who sexually harasses a young campaign worker. "You think I ain't got it, huh? Here, let me show you," the Lothario shrieks, and then proceeds to unzip his fly and take **that** matter out. The young girl is unfazed. She looks at it innocent-wise and then blandly delivers a perfect put-down: "Gee, first time I saw one that old."

Old people try a number of tricks to look young. Or, as they say in the currently popular lingo, *japorms*.

They dye their hair, they wear jeans and loud-colored T-shirts, they get themselves fitted with porcelain dentures, they wear contacts, oh, a lot of desperate maneuvers to avoid being tagged as old. And they go a-courting. Young girls, at least 40 years or so younger than they are.

Courting girls 40 years your junior is no easy business. A simple one-liner, said under the breath by a girl who thinks age has given you a hearing problem, is enough to get you untracked: "Dirty old man, *tandatanda na, mahilig pa!*"

Sometimes 60-and-over—all right, DOMs—hit pay dirt. Especially, if they have thick wallets. They get to collect a string of "girlfriends" who shiver when they caress the old boys' hip pockets. But there're bound to be some disasters too sometimes.

Claro, our "communications director" (he delivers our press releases and ad materials to publications), tells of a hair-raising experience, a real close shave he once went through.

There was a newly opened barbershop, Claro says, near their neighborhood and so he decided to try its service. The barber had just finished cutting his hair and was starting to give him a shave when the sweet young thing doing his nails accidentally touched that sensitive part of his upper thigh.

Well, accidental or not, it was enough provocation for Claro who, at 60-and-a-half, with his teeth gone, never doubts he can still charm 'em. He immediately launched his killer ploy. Which is to go direct to the point.

"*Ang ganda mo,* Day," Claro huskily whispered à la Eddie Garcia, slightly squeezing the girl's hand. "Why don't you and I go out to a movie and have dinner afterwards?"

"*Ho? Me asawa na ho ako*!" the girl said.

"*O, eh ano*? Your husband does not need to know. *Asan ba ang asawa mo*?" Claro persisted.

The girl smiled shyly and looked up at the barber who smiled back.

"*Ayan ho, inaahitan kayo*?"

Claro can no longer recall how he managed to stop his you-know-what from shooting up to his throat—the exact place where the barber had his razor.

Other than your lessened marketability as a lover, and your getting smeared over national radio by Deo Macalma who calls you "*amoy lupa,*" being old is not such a bad deal.

Being 60 and over means that you've seen much, enjoyed much. Of course, some of the things you've seen and went through might not have been all pleasant, but still and all, what substitutes are there for experience?

If you're 60 and over, you've seen and lived the Great War, you've witnessed the unfolding of great historical events, seen famous personalities at the height of their achievements and beauty and power. You've known how life was without television and computers and cell phones.

No 20-year-old can have those bitter-sweet memories that you have of those beautiful years when life was simple. There were no drugs, politicians had more brains and killers didn't eat their victims' brains, etc...

The young 'uns, of course, can counter, "Sure you have seen a lot but you'll also miss a lot. You will no longer be around when the exchange rate settles down at P2 to the dollar, when Edsa gets cleared of traffic, when the Marcoses agree to compensate martial law victims out of their own pockets and not from the escrow account, when we send packing all those so-called "presidentiables" and just call on Gary Lising to save the republic…you will miss 'em all!" We won't.

That's saying that it's guaranteed that those in their 20s would see those dreams come true. But would they?

My favorite counterpunch when ribbed by a young Turk about my age is: "Well, I'm a lot luckier than you are. I managed to reach 60. How about you? How sure are you you'll reach 60 too?"

Mart R. del Rosario is president of MRR Associates, a PR company.

Another surge of involuntary disappearances?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MEMBERS of a labor group calling themselves the Sosyalistang Kilusang Manggagawa sought the help of our organization this week to locate two of its members who went missing from Dec. 2 to 4. The victims were Ludivico Arnel Ramos, 30, married and Joselito Esguerra, 35, single.

Ramos' wife told the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) her husband went to Monumento in Caloocan City at around 2 p.m. on Dec. 2, 2001 to have his defective cellular phone repaired. Since then, Ramos failed to come home. She added that Ramos also failed to respond to her text messages. Meanwhile, Esguerra's sister reported that Esguerra failed to return home and neither did he reply to the text messages they sent him. Ramos and Esguerra were together that Sunday afternoon when they disappeared.

After two days of frantic search in Metro Manila's detention camps, FIND finally discovered Ramos and Esguerra in the custody of the Philippine National Police Region 4 at Camp Vicente Lim in Canlubang, Laguna. A statement released by the agency stated that those arrested were top-ranking members of the Partido Marxista Leninista ng Pilipinas, an armed clandestine group operating in Metro Manila and Rizal.

FIND does not want to undermine or challenge the arrest of Ramos and Esguerra; we do not wish to impede the PNP from doing actions within the bounds of its official job as mandated by our laws. We only want to raise our concern with regard to the manner of the arrest, which we think suffered serious lapses because it fell short of the just and acceptable procedures. We also worry about the possible adverse implications of these.

The PNP arrested Ramos and Esguerra in a manner similar to a police raid. This means that as the two were coming out from a fast-food shop in Caloocan, the PNP suddenly apprehended them. They were forced to board an FX van and were taken away even as a few passersby looked on. They were not presented any warrant of arrest or informed of the cause of their arrest. They were also blindfolded and were prematurely accused as cell phone snatchers before they were brought to Camp Vicente Lim. They were charged with illegal possession of firearms but they were not allowed to call their lawyer or their relatives to inform them of their whereabouts.

Most of all, the arrest of Ramos and Esguerra has stoked fears of an apparent upsurge in the phenomenon of involuntary disappearance, which is one of the cruelest forms of human rights violations used by the State to stifle opposition. There is actually an entire range of human rights guaranteed by the Constitution, which the crime of involuntary disappearance breaches. This includes the right to liberty and security and the fundamental and inviolable right to life, among others.

We have been lobbying the government since 1995 to enact into law a bill that will criminalize involuntary disappearance and eventually stave off the roots of this phenomenon. We appreciate the support of our lawmakers namely Rep. Krisel Lagman-Luistro who has filed House Bill 1913. We express the same for Senators Loren Legarda-Leviste and Francisco Pangilinan for filing Senate Bills 1854 and 1856, respectively. The passage of these bills will finally penalize enforced or involuntary disappearance and boost our efforts to resist such crime.

We urge the public to be informed and involved. In doing so, we continue to harness our collective power to defend and secure our constitutional rights, which took generations of not only social activists but even ordinary citizens, to work for...even to suffer and die for.—**LOUIE G. CRISMO, secretary general, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, P.O. Box AC 546, Cubao, Quezon City**

Islamic world opts for realistic approach to Israel

NEWS ANALYSIS

Taieb Mahjoub

DOHA—The world's Islamic countries meeting in Qatar found a new realism in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks and, dropping the usual anti-Zionist rhetoric, opted for diplomatic action directed at Washington to contain the Israeli military offensive.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in a final statement issued late Monday called on the US administration to implement the "positive elements" of its new support for a Palestinian state.

The body representing 1.2 billion Muslims, urged Washington to set a "precise mechanism and calendar, to turn words into action" after President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell outlined the new approach last month.

"The United States is called upon to implement the positive elements contained in their vision of a settlement of the Palestinian question," the statement said, although it did add criticism of Washington's "unlimited" support for the Hebrew state.

It was a clear break with the traditional inflammatory rhetoric which has often plagued Arab and Islamic reaction to the Israel-Palestinian issue.

The OIC set up a ministeral committee to lobby on behalf of the Palestinians.

Hardline Syria as well as Mali, Morocco, Qatar and the chief of the OIC have been tasked with contacts with the United States, Russia and European Union, Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Aissa told AFP.

According to a final statement the committee is to work for an "immediate halt to the Israeli aggression and plans to dismantle the Palestinian Authority."

It will also lobby for international observers to be sent to protect the Palestinian people, foreign ministers decided in the meeting which grouped 51 of the OIC's 57 members.

Following the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings in the United States, which have been blamed on Muslim Arabs and brought accusations that some elements were financing terror, the OIC countries, "preferred to be realistic in their attitude toward the United States and Israel," one delegate told AFP.

"The meeting has shown a sense of responsibility...even if it did not fulfill Islamic and Arab aspirations," said Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem al-Thani.

He sought to play down calls for a break in relations between Israel and the Arab or Islamic states which have diplomatic ties with Israel.

"Breaking off relations would make no sense and the problem is not on this level," he told a press conference in Doha.

"Our public views should not be mocked," he said, stressing that he preferred peaceful action to settle the Middle East conflict.

Such realism was also apparent in the Palestinian camp.

"We agreed on what is possible at this time," admitted Palestinian minister Saeb Erakat, who stood in for leader Yasser Arafat, blocked in the West Bank.

However Libyan Foreign Minister Abdessalam Triki said the Doha meeting "did nothing to confirm political support for the Palestinians."

He described keeping open diplomatic channels with Israel as "unjustified" and urged "the United States, which has interests in the Arab world, to take a less neutral attitude" toward Israel and the Palestinians.

Saudi Arabia and Jordan did not bother sending their foreign ministers to the session, but the presence of Kamal Kharazi the foreign minister of Iran, which does not recognize Israel's right to exist, did not weigh heavily on the decisions taken in Doha, delegates said.

"It's the first time that Islamic countries have agreed on a mechanism to take action on the international level...to restore peace in the Middle East," noted the Qatari foreign minister. *AFP*

Contamination at Bhopal continues

DEC. 3, 2001 was the 17th anniversary of the Union Carbide disaster at Bhopal, India. Greenpeace along with local community organizations peacefully commemorated the world's worst industrial accident, which killed and injured thousands of people.

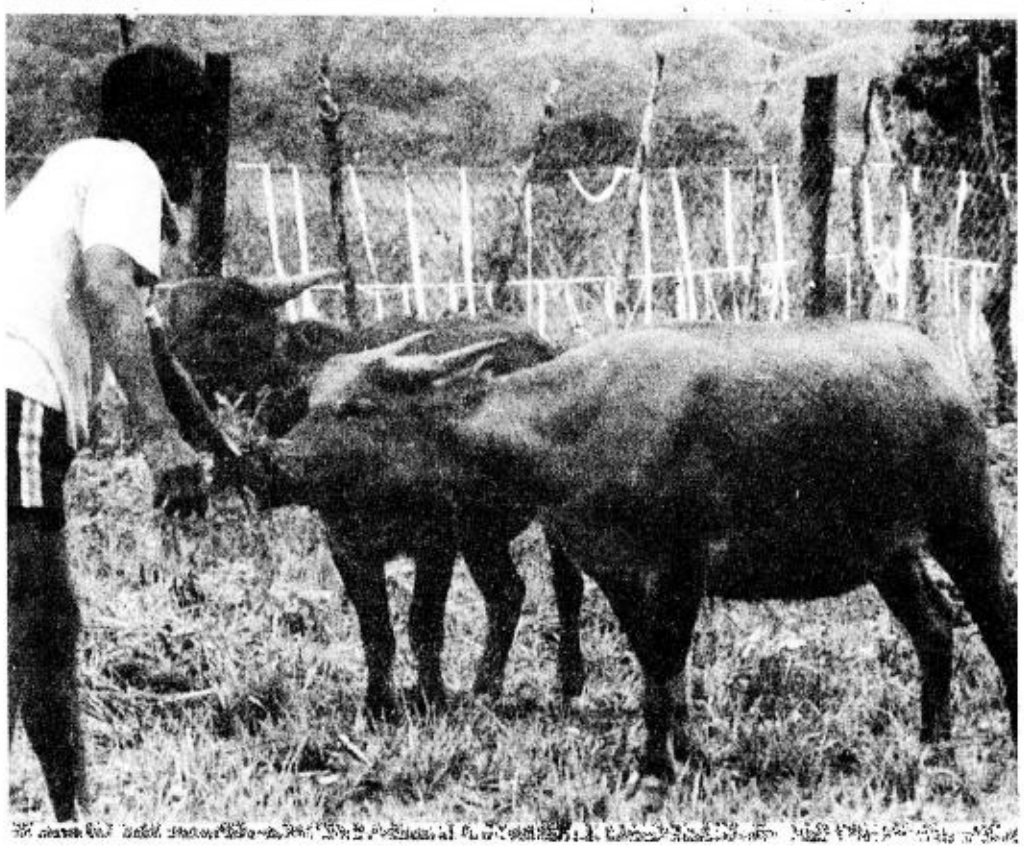
Most people think the disaster ended in 1984, but sadly the gas leak was just the start of the story. Seventeen years later, residents of Bhopal are still suffering injury, not just from the disaster but the continued legacy of contamination. Virtually nothing has been done to clean up the site and the water used by people for their everyday needs is still contaminated.

For example, a chemical analysis of ground water around the site found it to contain a cocktail of hazardous chemicals including chlorinated benzenes, chloroform, trichloroethane and carbon tetrachloride. An earlier study by Greenpeace in 1999 found levels of these chemicals many times the US Environment Protection Agency (EPA) drinking-water standards. The study found carbon tetrachloride to be up to 682 times higher, chlorinated benzenes 5 to 11 times higher, trichloroethane 50 times higher and chloroform more than 20 times higher.

With the merger of Dow Chemicals and Union Carbide, Dow has not only bought the company's assets but also its liability for the Bhopal disaster and legacy of contamination, which is continuing today.

Greenpeace supports the local Bhopal support organizations' call for justice in Bhopal and urges Dow Chemicals to undertake the following actions:

- Set up medical rehabilitation and long-term medical treatment facilities for the survivors of the poison gas leak.
- Ensure the economic rehabilitation of the gas-affected persons and their families.
- Clean up the toxic factory site at its expense.
- Make sure clean drinking water is provided to the communities that are forced to consume ground water that contains poison.—**FRANCIS JOSEPH DELA CRUZ, toxics campaigner, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Unit 326 Eagle Court Condominium, 26 Matalino St., Diliman, Quezon City**



How now the tamaraw?

LAST Oct. 26, 2000, you were kind enough to publish my letter about the dwindling number of tamaraws in the island of Mindoro. At that time I reported that the number of tamaraws has dwindled to only 369.

May I know from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources if the number of the tamaraws is still the same or has it been reduced because some have been "*napulutan na*"?

Any word from Secretary Heherson Alvarez?—**PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City**

PNP retiree's benefits long overdue

I AM a daughter of PS/Insp. Felix Enerbano Bucol, a retired policeman from the Davao City Police. I am writing without the knowledge of my father, but with the strongest conviction that this could be a solution to his present problem.

My father served for 27 years in the Philippine National Police until he was compulsorily retired last May 21, 2000. He was an honest policeman and never counted the long hours he had to spend at his job. He never considered his work an encumbrance, because he loved to be of service to his fellowmen.

Now, my father will soon be 58 but he has not yet fully enjoyed his retirement benefits. He has been waiting for almost two years for what he rightfully deserves. He even wrote President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to ask for her assistance. And the letter was endorsed to retired Police Director Orlando A. Macaspac, presidential consultant on police affairs. After that, an amount equivalent to his cumulative unused leaves was released, in two installments, which I learned is not the usual procedure.

That was all. But what about his other retirement benefits?

I wish that this Christmas will be a happy one. I am not speaking of the financial blessing it will bring but more of the fulfillment of my father's dream of giving his family a comfortable life and seeing that his years of service have been duly recognized and appreciated.

I know there are many PNP retirees who are in this same predicament, especially retirees from Mindanao. It's high time they'd be given the benefits due them.—**CHARLOTTE S. BUCOL, 54 Kabacan, Ecoland, Davao City**

Who is Ebdalin working for?

WE view with deep concern the latest statements of Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin regarding the recently concluded RP-Korea air negotiations which resulted in increased flight frequencies between the two countries from 13 to 16 flights per week.

In a statement published in the INQUIRER last Dec. 3, Ebdalin decried the increased air capacity's effects on Philippine Airlines instead of lauding the new market opportunities all our air carriers and the whole economy have just gained. "There will be more tourists in the sense that there will be additional flights," Ebdalin was quoted in the report. "That's all, but we don't know what the effects would be on Philippine Airlines."

That's all? Surely Ebdalin realizes the importance of the Korean tourist and trade market to the Philippines. It is the only growing market today with 185,605 visitors from January to October this year, a 19.6-percent increase from the same period last year even as other countries registered negative growth. It is our only ray of hope since the Sept. 11 New York terrorist attacks and the increase in capacity is a definite boost to our only winning hand.

Ebdalin has no business representing the country in these air talks and all matters relating to the country's civil aviation policy. In fact, we have serious doubts about his capacity and credibility in continuing in our country's foreign service.

With his latest statement, Ebdalin again betrays his agenda. He would do everything to save one privately owned airline at the expense of 75 million Filipinos.

PAL is not our only international carrier. The government's civil aviation policy calls for multiple designation of air carriers. Cebu Pacific and many others have been more than willing to pick up the slack in PAL's poor performance if only Ebdalin and his kind did their jobs properly in representing the country and not just Lucio Tan's or PAL's interests.

Ebdalin's actions now are a continuation of his representation of Tan's and PAL's interests over the country's. He was the chief implementor of the 1999-2000 RP-Taiwan fiasco, unilaterally abrogating the air services agreement with a 30-day notice when it was clearly stated that such notices have 120 days.

In February 2000, the House of Representatives' committees on tourism, transportation and foreign affairs said in their report on their investigation: "The gaps between policy and implementation were highly evident in the admission by Franklin Ebdalin, Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Vice Chairman of CAB, that the agreement abrogated after a 30-day notice in order to protect PAL. He stated that a 12-month notice as called for by the agreement was too long."

The Senate foreign relations committee also found the same irregularity when Ebdalin declared in the hearings that he was trying to "save Mr. Tan's P200-million investment in PAL." This was underscored by Sen. Francisco Tatad, the committee chair, in the committee report.

Amid all this, Ebdalin still went to town announcing that next in line for similar action were the air services agreements with Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

To further underscore our concern, we quote the above-mentioned congressional report on the impact of Ebdalin's actions on behalf of PAL: "The sudden and unilateral abrogation of our air services agreement with Taiwan, brazenly neglecting the specified one-year period to resolve differences, delivered a very sharp message to the world. This action put at risk our relationship with our fifth largest tourism market, our fourth largest trading partner, our fifth largest source of investment, and a country where more than 100,000 of our countrymen work. It also reflected badly on us as a nation and as a member of the international community."

Today, Ebdalin is back to his old antics. This time, the impact of his actions will not only set back years of hard work in the effort to make our country grow. He jeopardizes the limited opportunities we have in surviving this global crisis.

We say again, Ebdalin has done a great disservice to our civil service, to the DFA and to 75 million Filipinos. We realize that there may be certain constraints in acting on this matter so the very least that should happen is that he be moved out of civil aviation issues and into a place where he can do the least damage.—**NARZALINA LIM, chair, Freedom to Fly Coalition**

Initiatives to ease traffic, reduce pollution

I COMMEND Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez for carrying out certain measures intended to relieve traffic gridlock and instill discipline in the streets. Worth mentioning is the strict implementation of the "yellow bus lane" along Edsa and the anti-smoke belching campaign. Recently, he also launched Operation Isnabero which targets abusive and ill-mannered taxi drivers who demand fixed rates before taking passengers especially during inclement weather and/or rush hours.

I am sure that these measures, which Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon described as a boost to the tourism industry, will not only eliminate the chaos in the streets but save the environment from further deterioration as well.

May I suggest however, that traffic education be introduced as early as the basic education level so that a new Filipino road culture, grounded on the country's historical background, cultural heritage, traditional values, economic realities and national vision will eventually be developed.—**ISAGANI F. YUZON, chair, Movement for Orderly Traffic Operations and Regulation (Motor) Inc., 41 Senatorial Drive, Congressional Village, Quezon City**

Put coco levy funds to good use now

HAYDEE Yorac is right. The coco levy funds are public funds. Why they have not been so declared by the courts is a mystery. As public funds, the government should immediately set up the mechanisms and safety measures for their fair and proper disposal

It is immoral to hoard public funds in banks when they can and should be used for national development.

Had the coco levy funds been used to develop the coconut industry, considering the strategic potential of the industry and the magnitude of the funds, they would have already made a difference in our economy during the last 25 years.

Coconut is not just a source of cooking oil. It is food in itself, a medicinal substance, a construction material, a vital raw material for the war industry and a potential strategic substitute for fossil-based transport fuel.

It is really unfortunate that every administration misses out (deliberately?) on opportunities to develop this country. Instead of mobilizing local resources, they keep on burying succeeding generations of Filipinos in debt. Public funds are not supposed to fatten their trustees and the banks where they are deposited. These funds should move and work for the public good.

The trouble with resolving sequestered assets is not just untying the legal knots. The bigger question has always been: *Sino ba ang kikita*?—**EVA M. INCIONG, co-chair, Stagira Country, Barangay Bagumbayan, Pililla, Rizal**

Back to the ways of violence

I GREW up in Ilocos Sur. In the span of 40 years, from 1960 to 2000, the worst decades were the 1960s and 1970s. A number of my friends died violent deaths while they were in their late teens or early 20s so I was not very surprised to hear about the latest killings perpetrated by persons only known to the mastermind.

The ambush-slaying of the provincial auditor and his driver on the national highway in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, near the Philippine National Police provincial headquarters and in broad daylight, would have been a normal occurrence in the 1960s and 1970s. It should not happen today.

The reasons behind this dastardly act must be very serious, and because of this no witnesses are likely to come forward and testify.

Unfortunately—or fortunately—the murder victims were not from Ilocos Sur. Otherwise, there would be retribution. It may take days, months, years, or generations, but retribution is sure to follow unless the perpetrators of the crime relocate elsewhere. Those who choose to stay with blood in their hands will not find rest until they themselves are in their final resting place. This is a way in my home province. A tooth for a tooth. A life for a life.—**JERRY A. QUIBILAN, Col. Salvador Reyes Street, Poblacion Norte, Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur 2705**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Israel choppers kill toddler, youth

HEBRON, West Bank—An Israeli helicopter strike killed two young Palestinians, including a toddler, in the West Bank on Monday as both sides urged a frustrated US peace envoy to continue a mission marred by constant violence.

Israeli security sources said the target of the attack on a car in the divided city of Hebron was a leader of the militant Islamic Jihad group. Israel launched the strike a day after a suicide bombing wounded eight people in the city of Haifa.

There were conflicting reports whether the militant, Mohammed Sidr, had survived the attack in which a helicopter firing three missiles reduced one car to mass of charred metal and damaged two others.

Jihad Badr, chief of Hebron's Al Ahli hospital, said three-year-old Burhan al-Himuni and Shadi Arafi, 13, were killed.

The toddler's twisted, burned body was laid out on a hospital floor before being covered with an orange blanket. The child's father, who had been walking in the street with the baby, was among 12 people wounded. He is in critical condition.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had threatened after the Haifa blast to step up attacks on militant groups behind suicide bombings that have killed 29 people in Israel in the past 10 days.

"This is a new crime by Sharon. This is an ugly crime. And the United States must stand up publicly and condemn this crime," said Marwan Bargouthi, a leader of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's faction in the West Bank.

Minutes before the Hebron strike, Sharon met US peace envoy Anthony Zinni to urge him to stick with his peace-making mission after the former Marine Corps general voiced exasperation over a lack of progress.

Palestinian officials also publicly urged Zinni to keep up his peace efforts.

Zinni told both sides at Israeli-Palestinian security talks on Sunday he would consider ending his efforts to stop nearly 15 months of fighting unless real progress on halting violence was made within 48 hours, sources close to the negotiations said.

Washington is seeking to calm the Middle East conflict to help shore up Arab support for its anti-terror campaign in Afghanistan in response to the Sept. 11 hijack-plane attacks on the United States.

"(Sharon) told General Zinni that he attaches great importance to continuing his mission in the region and said Israel would do its utmost to help him," the prime minister's office said in a statement.

The United States has urged Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to rein in militants.

Israel has responded with air strikes against Palestinian security installations and symbols of power. Palestinian officials say the attacks are making the crackdown Arafat has promised more difficult.

Commenting on Sunday's Israeli-Palestinian session, a Palestinian security source said: "Zinni walked out of the meeting five minutes after it started, blaming both sides that they were not serious. *Reuters*

US MARINES walk across the desert in a sandstorm to board a waiting helicopter at Camp Rhino in Southern Afghanistan Dec. 10. The Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit were continuing their mission of sealing avenues of escape for al-Qaida forces from Kandahar. REUTERS

US, Russia close to new nuclear deal

MOSCOW—US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday that Washington and Moscow were very close to agreeing the levels of a new nuclear arms cut and that a formal deal could be signed before the middle of 2002.

However Russia and the United States were unable to bridge their differences over the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, Powell confirming that the United States intended to press ahead with construction of a missile defense shield which the nuclear pact bans.

The two sides reported their best progress over Moscow's demands to put in writing an earlier promise by US President George W. Bush to slash the size of the US long-range nuclear arsenal to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads by 2007.

"Both of our presidents have urged us . . . to try to get the work done in time for when the two presidents meet in Moscow next year," Powell told reporters after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Powell said that a new deal which was discussed between Putin and Bush during their summit in Washington and Texas last month could be put in writing "in a way that preserves the transparency and control agreements that exist in current treaties.

"Both of us recognize the need for codification. It might be in the form of a treaty or something else," Powell told journalists here.

Powell said Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov had provided him with a specific figure to which the Russian side was willing to cut its arsenal in the coming years and that he was taking that figure back to Bush in Washington.

The existing Start-2 treaty envisages a reduction in the number of warheads to 3,500 by 2007.

Conservatives in the White House had earlier resisted Russian demands to put the arms cut treaty in writing.

Moscow has expressed concern that a unilateral US approach to nuclear disarmament would mean that Russia would have no means of verifying the US cuts.

The Kremlin is also concerned that a future US administration would not be obliged to follow through with Bush's promise unless the treaty is put in writing. *AFP*

UN prepares for Afghan transfer of power

KABUL—The top UN official for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, held talks with the Afghan leadership in Kabul on Tuesday to prepare for the upcoming transition of power to a new interim government.

Brahimi, who flew in from Islamabad Tuesday morning, met the incoming foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah before holding discussions with the defense minister Gen. Mohammad Qasim Fahim.

A meeting was also possible with Hamid Karzai, who is to head the interim authority and has been until now in the southern city of Kandahar, surrendered by the Taliban last week after negotiations led by the Pashtun royalist.

"He (Brahimi) is in Kabul today to talk to the leadership about a smooth transition of power," the UN envoy's spokesperson Ahmed Fawzi told journalists, referring to the six-month interim administration due to come into effect on Dec. 22.

Among the thorniest issues on the agenda is the deployment of an international security force that formed a key clause of last week's historic UN-brokered power-sharing accord signed in Bonn.

The ethnic Tajik-dominated Northern Alliance now in power in Afghanistan threw a potential spanner into the works on Monday when it insisted it would not withdraw all its soldiers from Kabul.

It had pledged in the Bonn accord to demilitarize the city before the deployment of UN-mandated peacekeepers.

In the first clear sign of resistance to the proposed force, a top aide to General Fahim also said the peacekeepers would not be allowed to patrol Kabul.

That, said defense ministry spokesperson Mohammad Habeel, was a task reserved for Afghan security forces. *AFP*

Creative Stone
Countertop • Whirlpool
Bathtub • Spa

BESTANK®

MC HOME DEPOT
Makati - Ortigas
Open daily. Store hours: 9am-9pm Tel. 893-3070 / 636-6944
Christmas
RAFFLE BONANZA
EXTENDED UP TO DEC. 14, 2001

HCG BATHROOM FIXTURES SINCE 1931 In Total Harmony with Your Life

SGO®

Muebles ITALIANO
SCAVOLINI
Premier provider of European Furniture and Home Interior Furnishings. Also an Italian Modular Kitchen Systems - Scavolini

TOTO
Quality and Humanity

ZAR
STAINS & CLEAR FINISHES

CICG International Trade Corporation

LIGHT OPTIONS ENTERPRISES

EURO CABINET
Multi-Purpose Cabinet

PMC POLYTEX MARKETING CORP.
onda group

APO Platinum Vinyl

PRIT ENTERPRISES INC.
Supply & Installation of Natural Granite, Marble, Homogeneous Granite Tiles & Sandstones

asiaco
ISO 9002 QUALITY CERTIFIED By TÜV
KITCHEN & CLOSET WIRE BASKET

JOLLYNOX
100% ITALIAN QUALITY KITCHEN APPLIANCES
OVEN RANGEHOODS • COOKTOP • SINKS • FAUCET

RICAD
Melamine Boards • High Pressure Laminates • PVC Edge Tape • PVC T-Edge
Display Wall • Kitchen Cabinets • Architectural Design

MARIWASA
THE LEADER IN CERAMIC TILES

ASIA TILE

PROMO MECHANICS
1.) Every P1,000.00 single purchase or accumulated (provided the purchase has been made within the same day) from MC Home Builders' Depot in Makati and MC Home Depot in Ortigas as well as participating booths in both stores entitles a customer to one raffle coupon.
2.) Customers must indicate their name, address, telephone number and signature on the raffle coupon and drop it at designated boxes, one at MC Home Builders' Depot in Makati and one at MC Home Depot in Ortigas. All entries must be in the drop boxes by 8:00 p.m. December 14, 2001.
3.) Raffle draw will be held on Monday, December 17, 2001 at MC Home Builders' Depot in Makati at 4:30 p.m. Prizes at stake at the raffle are:
Ten (10) Koppel (1 HP) .746 Kwh Airconditioning Units
Ten (10) Hot Rocks Barbecue Grill
Five (5) (5cu. ft.) .27 H³ GE Refrigerator
Five (5) Elba Gas Range
*Ten (10) 3D Desklans
A DTI representative will be invited to witness the draw.
4.) A participant can only win once. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, the prize of higher value shall be awarded to him/her.
5.) All prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash. MC Home Builders' shall shoulder the 20% tax for prizes exceeding Php 10,000.00.
6.) Winners will be notified by registered mail and telephone. Prizes can be claimed either at the Administration Office of MC Home Builders' Depot at EDSA corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City, Tel.: 893-3070 and Fax 812-9426 or at the Administration Office of MC Home Depot at 168 Ortigas corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel.: 636-6944 and Fax 634-2399 depending on what is specified on the registered notice of the winner-claimants.
7.) To claim their prizes, winners must present the letter of notification from MC Home Builders' Inc., or MC Home Depot, a valid ID (i.e.) passport, driver's license, SSS/TIN Card and the raffle claim stub for verification purposes.
8.) Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall automatically be forfeited with prior approval from the DTI.
*9.) Promo period is from November 30 to December 14, 2001 only.
10.) Employees of MC Home Depot - Ortigas, MC Home Builders' Inc. - Makati, its suppliers, concessionaires and participating sponsors, its advertising agency including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are not allowed to join the promo.

R.M. DIMAANDAL CONSTRUCTION & WOODCRAFT CORPORATION

Valley Wood Products
Architectural Ornaments

JETT

PVC DOOR

American Standard
Designed for your Quality of Living

UNICON®
ELECTRIC WIRE & CABLE

WEISER LOCK® Brilliance
LIFETIME ANTI-TARNISH FINISH

DELTA®

Approved By DTI-NCR Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1949, Series of 2001.

Coffin scandal hangs over India government

NEW DELHI—Corruption in Indian defense circles returned to the spotlight Tuesday with parliament in uproar over reports that the government bought 500 coffins at exorbitant prices during a 1999 conflict with Pakistan-backed forces in Kashmir.

Both houses of parliament were eventually forced to adjourn for the day as opposition MPs, shouting slogans and tearing and throwing paper, demanded an explanation from the government benches.

The row focused on a special report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India on defense procurement relating to the 10-week conflict in the Kargil sector of Kashmir between Indian troops and Pakistan-backed forces.

According to the Times of India, the CAG found that the government had approved the purchase of 500 aluminum coffins at hugely inflated prices to carry the remains of what are now referred to as the Kashmir "martyrs."

The contract for 500 caskets and 3,000 body bags was signed with the US firm Buitron and Baize for $1.5 million in August 1999.

Each casket costs $2,500. Only five years ago, the same firm had supplied similar coffins to the commander of the Indian forces deployed in Somalia for just $172 apiece.

An initial delivery of 150 coffins was never used.

"The entire lot of caskets was rejected during inspection on grounds of being overweight and welded," the Times quoted the CAG report as saying.

"There was also no indication . . . that the reasonableness of the cost with reference to the material used had been conducted," it added.

The report will make uncomfortable reading for Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist-led government, which was rocked in March by a videotaped exposé of corruption in defense procurement circles.

"Not only did the government led by Vajpayee buy lesser value weapons at a higher cost, but what is really shocking is that the coffins of the martyrs were bought at an exorbitant price," said Pryaranjan Dasmunshi, chief whip of the main opposition Congress Party.

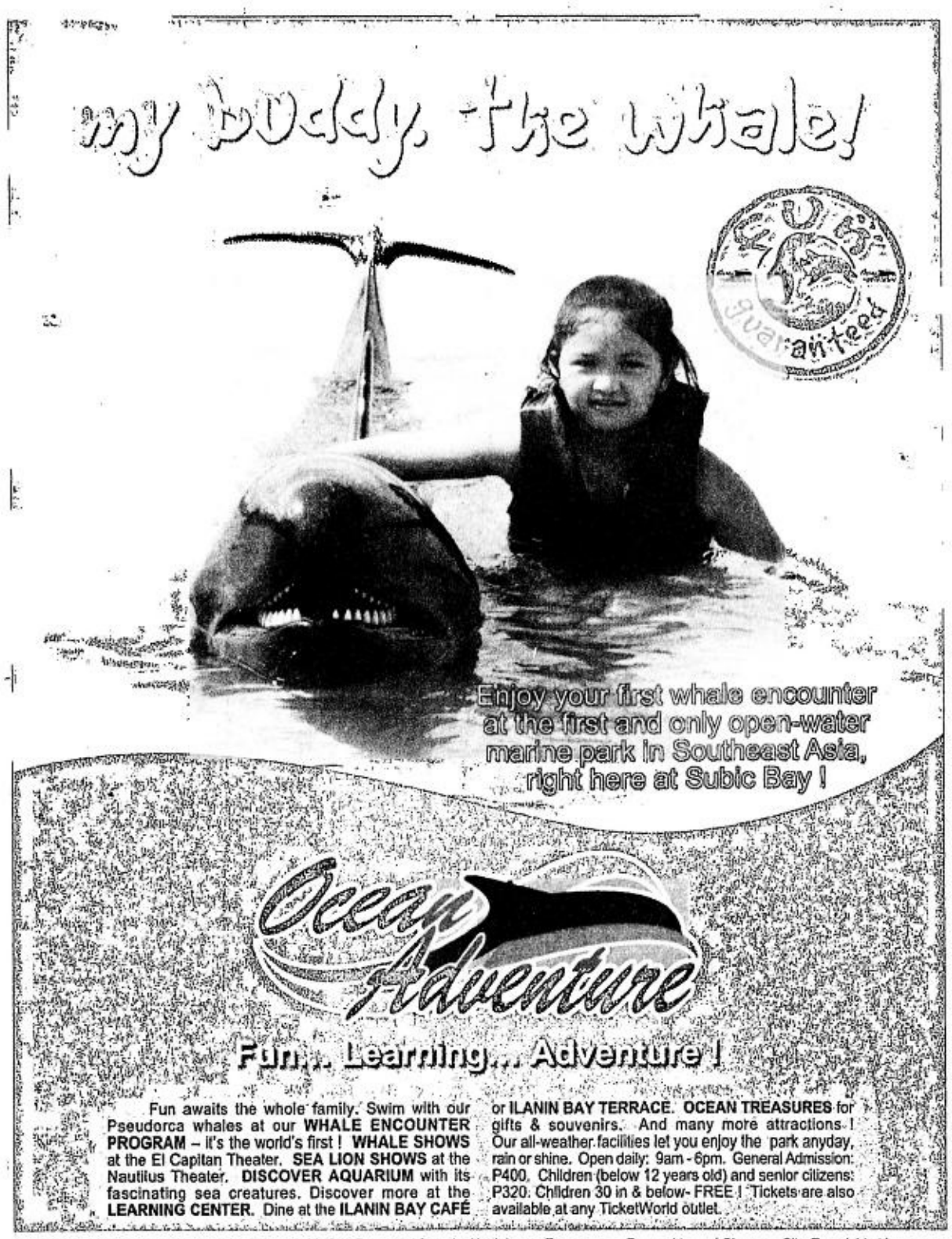
"They have no moral right to stay in office, until the prime minister explains to the house," he said.

The coffin row prevented the government from introducing a controversial anti-terrorist law which has been strongly criticized as draconian by opposition parties.

Home Minister L.K. Advani's attempts to table the new bill failed as opposition MPs rushed the well of the house shouting slogans like: "Soldiers shed blood while government takes commission."

The Congress and other opposition parties demanded the resignation of Defense Minister George Fernandez, who only returned to the post in mid-October, having already resigned once as a result of the March arms bribery scandal.

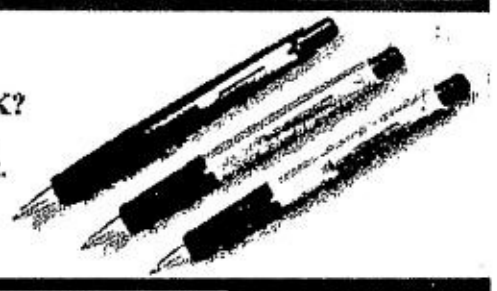
"Nothing short of the defense minister's resignation will normalize the situation," said Communist MP Nilopat Basu. *AFP*



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER My WISH BOX WAVE 89.1

DO YOU WANT TO WIN THESE SHEAFFER DELTA GRIP PENS FROM HALLMARK?

It's so easy. All you have to do is fill up this coupon and fax it to WAVE 89.1 at 632-WAVE. All entries for the day will be drawn and winners will be notified via fax or text within the day.



NAME: _____ AGE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
FAX: _____ PHONE: _____
CELL: _____ EMAIL: _____
Tune in to Wave 89.1 for the Announcement of the Day's Winner

today's prize courtesy of: Hallmark

HINT: Check out *Lifestyle's Tastes section* on Thursday, December 13, for Inquirer's My Wish box.

REUTERS

BALLET, NOT AGO-GO, DANCERS

Dancers from the Australian Ballet, the country's premier company which performs at the Sydney Opera House pose in their underwear during a photo-shoot for Australian Men's Magazine FHM. The dancers discarded their tutus for skimpy underwear and stilletos to pose in the men's magazine to break down the elite, conservative image of ballet and the perception that dancers are anorexic and waif-like.

Deaths in Gabon's Ebola outbreak now 11, says UN

LIBREVILLE, Gabon—Experts struggled to contain an outbreak of the highly contagious Ebola virus in this Central African nation, as the death toll mounted to 11 on Monday.

The World Health Organization confirmed the outbreak Sunday in the remote northeastern province of Ogooue Ivindo, where 45 people were killed when Ebola last struck in 1996-97.

All the deaths reported so far appeared to have occurred last week, and the toll was rising as experts were getting a better idea of the extent of the outbreak, WHO spokesperson Gregory Hartl said in Geneva.

Information about the outbreak remained sketchy, Hartl said.

Health officials in Gabon did not return repeated calls seeking comment.

It was not immediately clear how many people were infected, or over what period. The disease is usually fatal.

Gabon's government first reported it suspected an outbreak on Tuesday.

Villagers had reported an unusual number of dead primates—including gorillas and chimpanzees—in the dense forests of Ogooue Ivindo, World Wildlife Fund representative Allogo Ndong said in the capital, Libreville.

Around the same time, patients began turning up with symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea.

While researchers do not know what causes Ebola outbreaks, the virus is believed to be carried by some animals and insects, who may pass it on to humans.

A team from the Ministry of Health and the International Center of Medical Research in the eastern city of Franceville went to the province last week to investigate. The WHO also sent experts to Gabon.

Hartl said Sunday the laboratory in Franceville had confirmed that the disease was Ebola, which has similar symptoms to other, less deadly hemorrhagic fevers.

The outbreak was pinpointed to a settlement 55-65 km southeast of the town of Mekambo, near the border with Republic of Congo, Hartl said.

The dead included 10 members of an extended family and a health worker—a typical pattern for Ebola, which spreads quickly to people coming in contact with the patients or their bodies.

Hartl said a second team of WHO specialists was being assembled to fly to Gabon on Monday evening to help local officials contain the disease. They will help local medical staff use "barriers" like gloves and masks to prevent contact with the bodily fluids of patients.

The last documented outbreak of Ebola was last year, when 224 people—including health workers—died from the virus in Uganda. *AP*

Film recalls Japan wartime atrocities

BY TIM LARGE

TOKYO—One Japanese war veteran confesses to 328 murders. A former army sergeant describes throwing babies onto camp fires for laughs. Another says he raped and killed a woman, then carved up her body to feed to his troops.

Those are some of the macabre confessions in a controversial documentary that promises to stir up painful memories of Japan's World War II aggression and raise tough questions about individual responsibility for wartime atrocities.

Elderly veterans and curious youngsters were among the crowd at Japan's first public showing of "Japanese Devils," a three-hour mea culpa in which 14 former imperial army soldiers recall their brutal role in their country's war against China between 1931 and 1945.

"Once you've killed your second or third, you stop thinking about it," Yasuji Kaneko, a former army corporal, tells the camera, describing how he grew numb to slaughter after bayonet drills using live Chinese prisoners tied to stakes.

"It was ultimately about competition," another veteran says, reeling off a litany of horrors that included burning Chinese babies just for fun. "So how many you killed becomes a standard of achievement."

The documentary has been shown at film festivals around the world, notching up prizes for director Minoru Matsui in Germany and Portugal.

But its screening on home soil threatens to hit a raw nerve in a country where frank discussion about wartime atrocities remains largely taboo, and a backlash from right-wing activists is a real possibility.

The arts cinema in Tokyo's trendy Shibuya district that is showing the film said it received phone threats prior to the opening.

The theater braced for trouble from members of right-wing "uyoku" groups, who typically cruise the streets in black vans blaring militarist music or stage noisy kerbside demonstrations from atop flag-draped trucks.

"So far there's been no problem, but who knows what will happen?" Katsue Tomiyama, the cinema's president, said.

Gruesome confessions

The 14 former soldiers interviewed in the film recount in harrowing detail personal experiences of killing, burning, rape, torture and live vivisection, mostly after Japan plunged into full-scale war against China in 1937.

They also describe a brutal military culture sustained by extreme peer pressure, routine acts of cruelty and a doctrine of racial supremacy that they say turned some ordinary conscripts into merciless butchers.

"If I were in their place, or you were in their place, we might have done the same thing," director Matsui told a news conference after a recent press screening.

One former sergeant major, Masayo Enomoto, says he became so inured to murder—and so steeped in the idea that the Chinese were subhuman—that he thought nothing of chopping up a rape victim, cooking her flesh and serving it to his hungry troops.

"Killing lots of people also proved your loyalty to the emperor," says Yoshio Tsuchiya, a former second lieutenant.

Yoshio Shinozuka, a former corporal with the infamous Unit 731 that conducted gruesome experiments on live prisoners, says: "We referred to these people as logs."

"Japanese Devils" gets its name from the expression coined by the Chinese to describe the Japanese invaders.

Though the veterans' accounts sometimes sound almost clinical, they are underscored by a feeling of remorse that they say has translated into a sense of duty to pass on their stories.

"I will bear witness with as much detail as possible to the young generation," one former soldier says, explaining why he took the unprecedented step of confessing all before the camera.

Many among the 70 or so people who attended the premier were clearly affected by the film, though responses varied.

"I actually had that kind of experience myself," a 77-year-old war veteran said, coming out of the theater with tears in his eyes. "I was in China, in Nanking. I was wrong."

Asked if the kinds of atrocities detailed in "Japanese Devils" were common, he said: "They really were. Japan did terrible things." *Reuters*

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.webling.com

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers particularly over the Eastern section.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 21°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 27° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/12/12/01

ROUNDUP

Mayor cleared of graft

SAN JUAN, Siquijor—The Sandiganbayan has junked the graft charges filed in 1998 against Mayor Rogelio Magtagad and four town officials for lack of merit. AIT Trading and the MBF Drugstore and General Merchandise filed the complaint after the town officials denied them mayor's permits and excluded them from the bidding of supply medicines to the municipal government. In a Nov. 22 decision, the court said the officials only acted to protect the town's interest. Court records showed that the two firms did not have licenses in the wholesale of drugs and medicines from the Bureau of Food and Drugs. Marcelo Fua, brother of Gov. Orlando Fua Sr. and uncle of Rep. Shane Fua, owns MBF Drugstore.

Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Explosives cache found

ALCALA, Cagayan—Army soldiers recovered an explosives cache in two military operations in Gattaran town last week. Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander, said the cache contained at least 58 mortar bombs and Armalite bullets. He said the soldiers were informed about it by a former New People's Army rebel in Cagayan and other local residents. Army officials said the rebels buried the cache in Barangay Calaoagan Dakkel. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ransom payment denied

PAGADIAN CITY—Presidential Assistant Jesus Dureza belied the claim of kidnap leader Faizal Marohombsar that Malacañang handed him P5 million to secure the release of Italian missionary Fr. Guiseppe Pierantoni. Dureza said Marohombsar appeared to be concocting weird stories to get media attention. He said it was also unthinkable that the government would entrust such an amount to the kidnap leader. Dureza also said Marohombsar was apparently not serious with his charges. He said the kidnap leader told radio dzRH on Thursday last week that the government did not give him money.

Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Collect or close down?

DAVAO CITY—Patients of the Davao Medical Center, the only government hospital in the city, are being made to pay for medical services to reduce its losses, Dr. Gerardo Cunanan, hospital chief, said. Because of meager funds, Cunanan said it was difficult to sustain hospital operations without sacrificing the quality of service. He said the government was appropriating only P70 million per year for its operations although actual expenses were reaching P300 million. "People are asking why we are collecting money but we have to do this or else we will close down," Cunanan said.

Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Davao's overseas targets

DAVAO CITY—The city government said it was targeting neighboring Asian economies to prop up investments and develop local tourism industry. Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan, vice chair of the Davao City Investment and Promotion Center, said among the countries being considered were Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. Bonguyan said businessmen from these countries were more aggressive despite the global financial crisis, unlike their counterparts in Europe or the United States. To promote the city as the next investment center in the country, Bonguyan said the city government would allocate at least P4 million next year.

Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Garbage measure

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The city council is planning to require owners of residential lots with areas of more than 200 square meters to put up garbage pits in their backyards. Violators would be denied barangay clearance, according to Vice Mayor Fernando Batul, proponent of the measure. The plan aims to resurrect the use of compost pits in garage disposal. At present, the city government is facing several civil suits for not paying the dues of garbage haulers that had serviced the city.

Ruelle Albert Castro

Campaign to save river

NAGA CITY—A group of women here has combined a lantern-making contest, fashion show, painting exhibit, folk dances, *tigsikan* (Bicol *balagtasan*), *rawit-dawit* (Bicol poetry recitation), rondalla performances and Bicol song renditions to save the Bicol River. The Ladies in Green Foundation Inc., whose members include four spouses of lawmakers and women employees of City Hall, held the activities on Dec. 8-9 during the culmination of its environmental campaign dubbed "*Salvar Salog*" (Save the River).

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Suspected rebels burn bus

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau
AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

CEBU CITY—A passenger bus was torched by suspected communist rebels in Barangay Panalipan, Catmon, 47 kilometers north of here, at 10:30 a.m. yesterday.

The bus, owned by Philtranco Bus Liner, left the company's terminal in front of SM City along the Cebu North Reclamation here and was bound for Tacloban City through the port of Bogo town.

It had 15 passengers, including the three suspected members of the New People's Army, who boarded in the Danao City area. One of the suspects was a young woman.

One of the passengers, Gilbert Sanchez, said the suspects stopped the bus when it arrived in Barangay Panalipan and ordered all of them and the driver to get off because they had to burn it.

At least 15 to 20 armed persons were already waiting at the area, Sanchez said. Other suspected rebels were in a grassy area nearby, according to information gathered by Fritz Orat, Cebu manager of Philtranco Service Enterprises Inc.

Orat said some of the armed persons manned a checkpoint several hundred meters away to prevent other vehicles from reaching the area immediately.

Sanchez said the woman, who was one of the passengers, had brought with her a gallon of gasoline. It was she who put the bus on fire, he said.

Sanchez said one of the armed persons told the passengers that they did it because the owner of the bus company failed to pay them "revolutionary taxes."

"We apologize to you but we have to do this because the owner did not pay the revolutionary tax that we asked for," Sanchez quoted the armed person as saying.

But Orat said his company had never received any demand from the NPA. A police source, however, said the rebels had demanded P1 million from the company.

Following the incident, Philtranco decided to suspend its operations in Cebu. The company, which is owned by Jose Alvarez who is based in Manila, has four buses plying the Cebu-Bogo-Tacloban route daily.

Orat estimated the damage at P3 million.

He said the passengers were not hurt but some of them failed to bring along with them all their belongings when they disembarked.

In Manila, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan sought the investigation of the bus burning.

If it is proven that the NPA initiated the attack, government troops would pursue them, Adan said.

"This incident will have to be investigated by our police agencies to determine the real perpetrators of this burning of the bus. It had been reported that this was due to the demand of the NPA to the bus company to pay protection money, but we will have to confirm this before we condemn any group," Adan said.

"If it is proven that it was the NPA . . . even during periods of ceasefire, nothing precludes the Philippine National Police and the AFP from discharging their functions of protecting our communities and keeping the peace. So we shall conduct pursuit operations against the perpetrators of these crimes," he said.

Both the government and the communist NPA have declared unilateral ceasefires during the holiday season.

The government's ceasefire started Dec. 10 and will end Jan. 6, while the NPA's ceasefire would start Dec. 15 and last until Jan. 15.

Rebs threaten to pull out of peace talks

BY ALEX V. PAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Breakaway communist rebels have threatened to abandon their peace talks with the government should it give in to the demand of civil society groups to reformulate the peace accord they signed early this year.

The rebels belonged to the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa sa Pilipinas (RPMP) and the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB), which split from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) over a decade ago.

RPMP chair Art Tabara and RPA-ABB commanding officer Carapali Lualhati said they would push for the implementation of the peace accord when Secretary Eduardo Ermita holds a new round of consultations with civil society in Bacolod City today.

They said they would back out of the talks if the agreement they had entered into with the Estrada administration would remain unimplemented.

The two leaders revealed their plan to farmers, fisherfolk and other representatives of peoples' organizations during a peace and development forum held at the Silliman University yesterday.

The forum was sponsored by the Inter-Faith Fellowship, the Diocese of Dumaguete, Rural Farmers and Fisherfolk organizations and the Silliman University Church on the occasion of Human Rights Day.

The peace process between the RPMP/RPA-ABB and the government has hit a snag because of the demand of the Negros-based civil society groups to be heard by the Macapagal administration before any such peace accord is implemented, according to the two rebel leaders.

The RPA-ABB and the RPMP had forged a peace deal early this year with then President Joseph Estrada. When President Macapagal-Arroyo took over, she appointed Ermita to review the peace accord.

Tabara said Ermita has assured them that Ms Macapagal would honor the agreement. But Ermita also asked for time to finish the consultations that he started with the civil society groups.

Tabara and Lualhati both scored the civil society groups, which they said is mostly Bacolod-based, for having their own agenda.

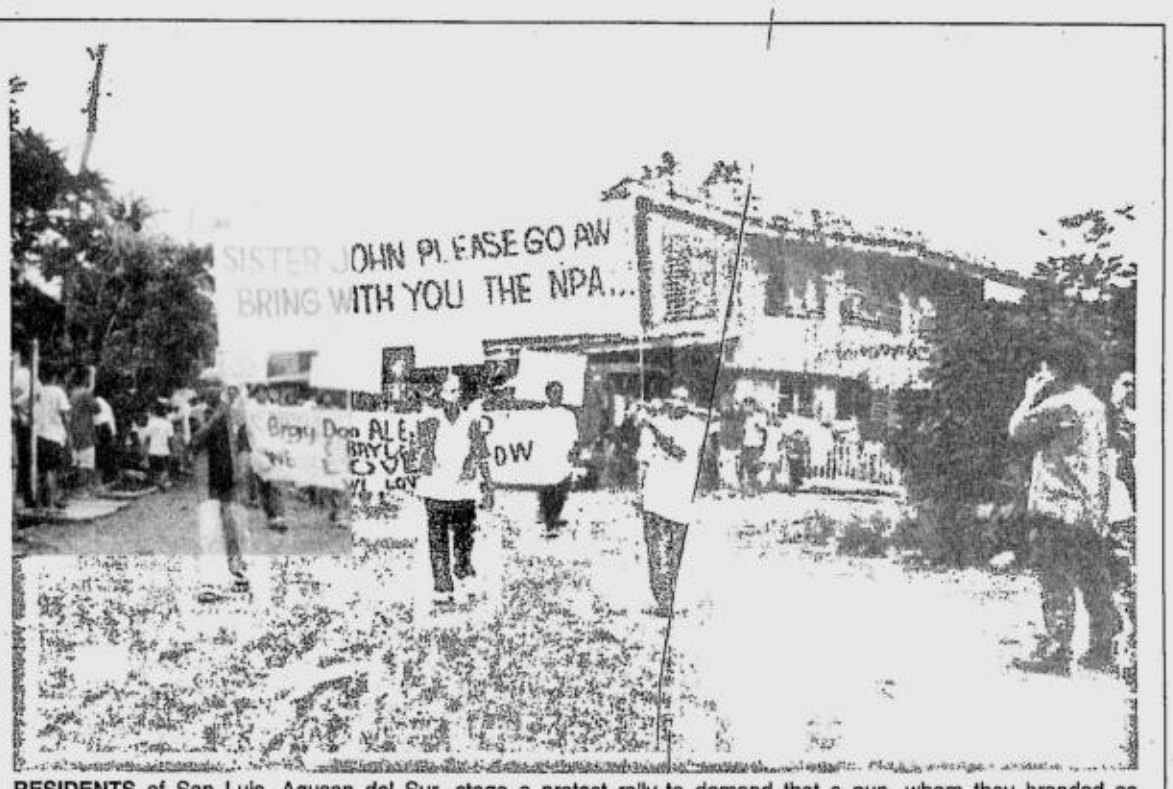
Lualhati said some priests in Negros Occidental were being influenced by members of the CPP and its military wing, the New People's Army, because their armed struggle would become irrelevant if the agreed reforms were implemented.

Under the peace accord reached with the RPA-ABB, the government will provide P500 million for development projects. "This is even very small if we talk of overall development," Tabara said.

While this is just a "drop in the bucket" and could not solve poverty, "this is better than the original government proposal of P5 million," he said.

But Tabara said some sectors of civil society want to become members of the joint enforcement and monitoring committee.

"They want to have two representatives in that committee in addition to the three government representatives which we cannot allow because others simply want the project to be implemented in their localities which are not our constituents."



RESIDENTS of San Luis, Agusan del Sur, stage a protest rally to demand that a nun, whom they branded as a communist leader, should leave town.

BUTCH ENERIO/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Let Army stay, Agusan folk urge

BY MA. KRISTINA CASSION
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SAN LUIS, Agusan del Sur—Around 200 residents of this town, including some Army regulars, staged a march-rally in support of the military's continued stay.

The rally came days after residents and officials of Barangay Balit demanded the pullout of Army troops from the barangay government center "so that civilian operations can continue."

Among those who aired their support of the military was Banwaon Supreme Datu Mario Napungahan.

Napungahan said his tribe did want the soldiers to go because they were giving them protection from communist rebels.

While demanding the retention of the military here, the marchers criticized a nun, whom they branded as the "brains" of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Sr. Mary John Dumaog of the Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS) said the accusation against her was amusing.

"They accuse me of being the brains of the Communist Party? Do they mean I have already replaced Jose Maria Sison?" she said in a jest.

Sison, the CPP founder, is serving as a political consultant of the communist-led National Democratic Front in peace negotiations with the government abroad.

ARMY soldiers continue to stay at the government center in Barangay Balit, San Luis, despite complaints by residents that their village functions were being disrupted.

MA. KRISTINA CASSION

Dumaog also took exception to allegations that she initiated the drafting of a petition against the military's occupancy of government buildings in Barangay Balit.

"That is not true. It was through the initiatives and personal experiences of the barangay residents themselves that they made the petition. They have their own principles so they can make their own petition," she said.

Marcelito Precioso, barangay chair of Balit, also denied that he and his constituents were being dictated upon by Dumaog.

"Why do they want to side track the issue to personal attacks to Sister John when the issue here is their violation of the Local Government Code when they disrupted our functions in the barangay?" Precioso said.

Dumaog said the rally was an attempt by the military to muddle the issue raised by the residents of Balit.

After the rally, the organizers staged a press conference, but this reporter was barred from covering it.

Enricita Lopez, a spokesperson of the group and a soldier herself, declared: "There is a media person here who is not allowed to interview us."

When Lando Apit, a radio reporter asked her why, she answered "*Basta*! We do not want her to be here. We will not let these people (marchers) talk if she is still here."

Lopez later said this reporter was a supporter of Dumaog.

Maj. Johnny Macanas, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, told other reporters that this writer was not invited to attend the press conference in the first place.

Zambo Norte officials mad over DENR failure

BY LULLIE B. MICABALO
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DIPOLOG CITY—A fuming Zamboanga del Norte vice governor berated regional officials of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau for their continued refusal to implement an order to close several cyanide-using gold processing plants in Siocon town.

The officials had cited lack of funds and personnel.

The outburst happened at a recent joint meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council and the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council called by Gov. Isagani Amatong.

"Governor, Vice Governor, *wala kaming pera . . . wala kaming tao* (we don't have money and personnel) to implement the order. What we only have in our office are two clerks," Joaquin Soriano, chief of the Mining and Safety Division told Vice Gov. Eduardito Pacatang and other council members.

The remarks infuriated Pacatang.

"You will not stop the operation of the small-scale miners, and you will not dismantle their plants because they are your milking cows," he told Soriano and MGB Director Dean Apao.

Earlier during the meeting, Amatong and Pacatang committed the province's heavy equipment to dismantle 15 plants which continued to operate despite the closure order issued by Apao and concurred in by MGB Regional Executive Director Maximo Dichoso.

Despite the assurance, Soriano, upon Apao's proddings, repeated his remarks, prompting Pacatang to stand up and berate the two officials.

"We are concerned with our people and environment. We shall do what we could to stop pollutions and contamination in our area. (But now you will say), you can't implement your own order. You mean, we will be the one to do your job? *Ipa*-Ombudsman *ko kayo* (I will tell the Ombudsman)," Pacatang added.

Soriano's remark also earned the ire of Amatong.

"Is the government so inutile that it could not implement its own order?" he asked Apao.

A recess was called to end the heated discussion, but when the meeting resumed, both Apao and Soriano were nowhere to be found.

During the meeting, Siocon Mayor Cesar Soriano aired his opposition to the continued mining of the small-scale miners and Toronto Ventures Inc. (TVI), a big mining firm, which was about to mine the mountains of Siocon, Kalawit, Gutalac, Sirawai and Sibuco.

"I want the small-scale miners and TVI out," Soriano said, adding that both were damaging the town's environment.

Neither does he trust the DENR, he said. "The very agency tasked with protecting the environment is allowing its destruction. Look at what happened to Marinduque and Benguet," he added, referring to the disasters that developed from open-pit mining in these provinces in Luzon.

In a resolution, Soriano asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to cancel TVI's Mineral Production Sharing Agreement in order to stop the mercury and cyanide contamination in Canatuan and Lituban rivers.

Victoria Jamolod, spokesperson of TVI, said her company has not started operations yet. Thus, she said, it should not be blamed for the mercury contamination of the river.

AMY Reyes-Forthomme demonstrates to an NBI agent how she was strapped to a wheelchair by Baguio Country Club security guards and forcibly taken to the psychiatric ward of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center. EV ESPIRITU

Club ejects 'overstaying' member

Woman says she was bound, gagged, sent to hospital

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Her hands and feet strapped tightly to a wheelchair with strips of bed sheets from the Baguio Country Club (BCC), an "overstaying" member was ejected from the exclusive club on Friday.

Amelita Reyes-Forthomme on Friday night was sent by BCC officials to the psychiatric ward of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC).

Now, Forthomme is suing BCC and its general manager, Anthony de Leon, for kidnapping and grave coercion, claiming she was bound and expelled from the club by 10 security men.

She said the security men crept over her balcony "like thieves" at about 8 p.m. Friday.

Forthomme claimed she was expelled because of her "Ilusorio disloyalty."

Witnesses told the INQUIRER on Monday that Forthomme was eventually abandoned, bound and gagged at the doorsteps of the BGHMC psychiatric ward, where she had to undergo hours of psychiatric examination before she was allowed to leave.

Forthomme is the wife of Belgian investment banker Denis Forthomme, who was nominated to a seat in the BCC board of directors by the estranged heirs of the late BCC president Potenciano Ilusorio during their Nov. 7 proxy elections. He lost the nominations.

But Forthomme's "predicament" last weekend was based on sound psychiatric evaluation, BCC lawyer Abelardo Estrada told the INQUIRER.

"Forthomme was acting strangely. She was upsetting the club because she never left her room and she locked herself in. I was told that the club asked a Baguio psychiatrist, Dr. Rosa Tibayan, to talk to her," Estrada said.

"She managed to interact with (Forthomme) and she later certified that Forthomme showed signs of *schizophrenia* and had delusions. We coordinated with the BGHMC and made arrangements for her treatment. Our actions were purely humanitarian."

De Leon was unavailable for comment at press time.

At the National Bureau of Investigation office here on Monday, Forthomme admitted that she had locked herself inside the room for more than a week after club officials allegedly threatened to eject her to accommodate guests of the Fil-Am golf tournament last week.

Forthomme had booked a room for a month in November, and had received an extension allowing her to stay until Nov. 29.

She was refused a second extension until Dec. 7 because of prior reservation commitments made for the prescheduled golf tournament, BCC sources said.

As early as Dec. 3, Forthomme had been calling the INQUIRER's Northern Luzon Bureau about her supposed maltreatment from the club.

She claimed that the club management had intentionally turned off the water and power connections to her room and had forbidden employees from servicing her room.

"I did not intend to stay this long, but I needed more rest due to my high blood pressure. I was brought to the BGH emergency ward and was diagnosed with Stage 2-C hypertension. I don't know what that meant. I was also undergoing medication because of a previous root canal treatment," she said.

But Forthomme said she was persistent about staying at the BCC "to prove a point."

"I am being forced out because I am identified with the other side (of the Ilusorio family), so I intend to stay here. I am a paying customer. I am a member. They can get rooms for their guests if they wanted to," she said.

Forthomme said she was a friend of Ilusorio widow, Erlinda Kalaw-Ilusorio, his oldest son Ramon and daughters, Marietta and Shereen.

These family members are currently at odds with eldest daughter Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap, Maximo Ilusorio and Ma. Erlinda Ilusorio-Bildner, who run the BCC board.

Estrada said he had no knowledge of any directives to cut off Forthomme's services, "even though she was indeed overstaying."

Forthomme demonstrated to the NBI how she was tied firmly to an old wheelchair.

"I never expected that Anthony (de Leon) would go this far. I thought they were going to drag me to an isolated place where they would choke me to death. I'm still traumatized," Forthomme said.

P1.2-M shabu found in can

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A can of biscuits that was seized here Sunday night was apparently worth P1.2 million.

The "mysterious can," recovered Sunday afternoon from the 63-year-old relative of an alleged Bacolod-based drug lord, yielded shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) when it was opened Monday.

Ronnie Cabillo Cuadra, of Purok Sigay, Barangay 2, was accosted by members of the Regional Anti-Illegal Drugs Task Force led by Supt. Lazaro Torcita at about 5 p.m. Sunday at the Banago Wharf.

He had just disembarked from the MV Mary Queen of Peace, which came from Manila, and was carrying the tin can of locally made biscuits.

Torcita said Cuadra admitted Sunday afternoon that the can contained about 100 grams of shabu hidden under the biscuits but he recanted his statement yesterday.

The can, however, yielded not just 100 grams but 792 grams of the prohibited substance. The illegal drug was packed inside a plastic bag.

Torcita said it was the biggest drug haul in Western Visayas this year and that he would have his men recommended for spot promotions for it.

The can was opened at about 1 p.m. yesterday in the presence of Banago officials led by village chief Eduardo Torrecampo and local journalists after the police secured a search warrant from Bacolod Regional Trial Court Judge Lorna Demonteverde.

Torcita said Cuadra bought the prohibited drug from a Rodolfo Saturnino along Taft Avenue in Manila.

Cuadra had been under police surveillance for about two months, but Torcita said it was just a coincidence that one of their assets happened to be on the same Bacolod-bound ship that Cuadra boarded.

Yesterday, Cuadra denied owning the can, saying he did not know where it came from.

Police authorities were set to file charges against him for illegal possession of prohibited drugs. Possession of over 200 grams of shabu is non-bailable and punishable by death.

Pyrotechnics cargo seized

BACOLOD CITY—Police confiscated 27 large boxes of assorted pyrotechnics worth about P200,000 from the Negros Navigation (NN) container yard in Barangay Banago, this city, on Monday.

Senior Insp. Harold Tuzon, head of the city police intelligence and investigation branch, said the NN management reported the matter to them when one of the boxes fell apart and was found to contain the pyrotechnics.

A copy of the bill of lading that NN furnished the police showed that contents of the 27 boxes had been declared assorted school supplies worth P25,000.

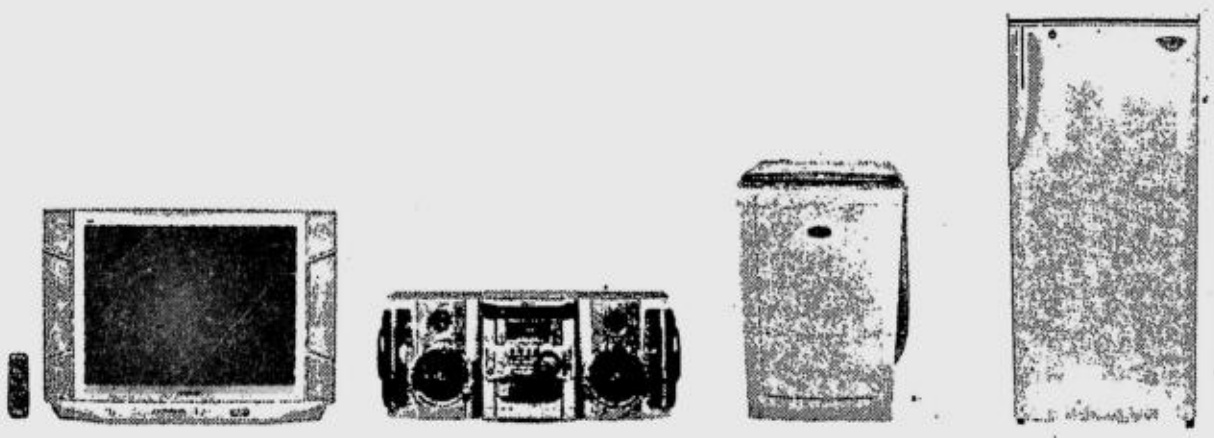
The pyrotechnics were shipped from Bocaue, Bulacan by Narriettes Supply to Myla Gomez in Bacolod. The shipment was unloaded Monday morning from the NN-owned St. Joseph the Apostle vessel.

The boxes were opened by the police in the presence of Banago Barangay Chair Eduardo Torrecampo, NN manager Reynaldo Obreo and Gomez, who later denied owning the items.

The owner of the shipment may be held liable for transporting pyrotechnics without a permit or may be charged with smuggling, according to Insp. Rolen Balquin, city police deputy director.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES has 49 branches that offer Sharp products.



SHARP
• 676 mm. (29")
• Aphrody Stereo Color TV
• Flat-design
• DVD ready Input Terminals

SHARP CD-BK110V
• 2500W PMPO 3-disc VCD Mini System
• MP3 capable • Bi-amplifier
• Side-firing Sub-woofers

SHARP
• 7.0 kg Full Auto Washing Machine
• Stainless Steel Tub
• Double Pulsator

SHARP
• 180-liter (6.4 cu.ft.)
• Single-door Direct Cooling Refrigerator

Here's how you can visit all 49.

Win a brand-new Toyota Revo when you buy Sharp products at Emilio S. Lim Appliances!
We're giving you the chance to win exciting prizes in our Grand Raffle and minor raffle draws plus more prizes in our Instant Win Game!

SHARP WIN AND DRIVE 20th ANNIVERSARY BASH

Visit our exhibit at Jenra Grand Mall, Angeles City from December 13 to 24, 2001

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1211, Series 2001

ESLA
EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES

49 Branches to serve you:
Alabang 842-5967 • Angeles City (045)887-5728 • Antipolo 697-1715 • Apalit (045)879-0037 • Balagtas (044)693-3386 • Balanga (047)791-2554 • Baliuag (044)673-1593 • Batangas (043)723-5393 • Binakayan (046)434-5120 • Biñan (049)411-1946 • Calamba (049)545-7787 • Caloocan 287-3477 • Cainta 655-6398 • Cubao 724-8326 • Dasmariñas I (046)973-0498 • Dasmariñas II (046)850-2833 • Fairview I 427-5514 • Fairview II 427-0916 • GMA (046)972-0364 • Imus (046)471-7166 • Kalentong 534-5419 • Lagro 417-5618 • Las Piñas 802-4929 • Lipa (043)756-5747 • Lucena (042)373-7438 • Makati City (Main Office) 843-1287 Fax No. 729-6214 • Malolos (044)791-3335 • Marcos Hi-way 645-1543 • Marikina I 948-8510 • Marikina II 942-0885 • Meycauayan (044)840-0030 • Muñoz 453-4796 • Novaliches Baesa 330-0164 • Novaliches Proper 930-0809 • Parañaque Quirino 825-9152 • Parañaque Sucat 825-1352 • Pasig City I 747-7466 • Pasig II 641-5004 • Rosario (046)438-0886 • Sampaloc 743-4924 • San Jose Del Monte (044)691-5122 • San Pablo (049)561-1690 • San Fernando (045)963-5872 • San Pedro 847-9652 • Sta. Maria (044)641-3112 • Sta. Rosa (049)534-2339 • Tanay 693-0326 • Tanauan (043)778-3136 • Taytay 660-5365 E-MAIL ADDRESS: esla@4appliances.com • SERVICE HOTLINE: 729-6216/729-6217/729-6218/729-6145

OFWs urged to demand full rights in host states

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The economic contributions of migrant workers in their host countries have more than earned them the right to demand full rights as citizens.

In a human rights forum here Monday, a visiting expert said economic growth fueled by remittances of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) should be recognized so that they could earn the right to live permanently in the receiving nations.

They could also sponsor the migration of their families, move in the labor market freely, and vote and select government representatives, Rhacel Parreñas, assistant professor of Asian American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said.

Parreñas wrote a book, "Servants of Migration: Women Migrant and Domestic Work," that focused on the plight of OFWs, many of them domestic helpers, in Hong Kong, Italy and the United States.

She spoke on the topic, "Worthy Workers, Unworthy Humans: The Citizenship of Women Migrants in the New Global Economy," during the forum held at the University of San Agustin here as part of activities marking International Human Rights Day.

Filipino migrants, both professional and low skilled, are afforded "partial citizenship" by their receiving countries characterized by stunted integration into their societies, said Parreñas.

This is shown, for example, by discriminatory measures, such as prohibiting domestic workers under contract in the Middle East and some countries in Asia to become pregnant.

Paradox

"As partial citizens, they cannot enjoy full membership in a community which encompasses civil, political and civil rights, despite the contributions of their labor to the economic growth of receiving nations," said Parreñas.

She said it was a paradox that migrant workers care for privileged families but are unable to care for their own families because many countries do not allow them to bring their loved ones along.

In the US, Filipina nurses come as temporary workers under H-1 visas and for two years are ineligible to sponsor the migration of their families.

In Hong Kong, the migrant workers are "legal dependents" of their employers and are not protected by labor laws, thus vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse, excessive work hours with no overtime pay and substandard living conditions.

In the United Kingdom, the OFWs are given guest worker status whose stay is limited to the duration of their contracts. They face strict European Union guidelines on family reunions due to suspicions that they will remain indefinitely, said Parreñas.

Italy allows guest workers to stay as long as seven years instead of just two years as in Singapore.

Countries that grant full citizenship are Spain, Canada and the US. In the US, the belief that migrants burden the economy and drain government services has raised public resentment against migrants.

By curbing the integration of migrant workers, the host countries secure their economies by depending on the cheap labor of migrants. The latter could easily be repatriated if the economy is low.

Cash infusion

Available data from the Commission on Filipino Overseas noted some 6 million OFWs as of 1995, of whom 4.2 million were migrant workers and 1.7 were emigrants or permanent settlers.

Economists say the total cash infusion of Filipino migrants is $8 billion per year, if money sent through banks, letters and returning migrants are considered.

"However, the foreign remittances earned by the Philippines, does not compare (with) the economic growth granted by Filipino nurses in the US and domestics in Hong Kong," said Parreñas.

She explained that the US need not invest on caring for their labor force with the presence of foreign-trained nurses, clerks, and cleaners while Italy benefits because the low-wage migrant workers free Italian women of their work at home.

A 1994 survey of nursing professionals in the US noted that Filipino nurses work in the least desired and most highly stressful jobs in elderly homes, public hospitals, intensive care units, often during evening and night shifts. These hospitals are concentrated in inner cities and are more congested and busier than other health facilities.

The iconic presentation of OFWs as modern-day heroes during the Aquino administration recognized the dependence of the Philippine economy on out-migration, said Parreñas. However, the country lacks strength to protect its citizens working in other countries.

For example, Malaysia ignores labor conditions on salaries and rest days imposed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration because it does not recognize contracts signed overseas.

Corpses

Despite the publicized return of corpses of abused workers, the Philippine government downplays such brutalities as "rare incidents."

Data from the Institute for Social Development Issues and Initiatives of the University of San Agustin noted that in 1998 alone, 690 OFWs died in their host countries and 1,935 OFWs were languishing in jails abroad.

Parreñas said migrant workers did not feel that they have earned the right to demand permanent settlement in their host countries.

She noted that the OFWs view the receiving countries as "benevolent nations" that provide "blessings" and "opportunities" which are not available in the Philippines and for which they should be grateful.

But Parreñas said the OFWs should shift their perspectives so that they can generate the strength to organize themselves and demand social, political and economic rights in the receiving nations.

Center has new eaglet

BY JOSELLE D.R. BADILLA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Here's another good news and early Christmas gift for conservationists. The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) here announced the successful hatching of another Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga Jefferyi*) on Monday evening.

The eaglet, which has yet to be named, weighs 136 grams.

It was the fifth product of natural pairing techniques, according to Dennis Salvador, executive director of the PEF.

The eaglet is the third for Brianne and Jag, the Philippine eagles that were freed from poachers in Northern Mindanao a few years ago.

"This is an early Christmas gift to the Filipinos. It's very promising because we have a good production this season. We are projecting and hopefully if this will continue we will release these birds back to the wild. We will begin releasing them when they reach the right age," Salvador told the INQUIRER.

Salvador said Brianne and Jag actually produced four eggs this year, but one of them was infertile.

"We are expecting another egg to hatch early January," Salvador said.

The PEF, like other conservation groups, has been trying so hard to boost the dwindling population of the Philippine eagle. Latest estimates said the bird species numbered less than 400 pairs.

In 1992, the center successfully hatched Pag-asa, the first eagle bred in captivity through artificial insemination.

THE STILL-unnamed eaglet is shown in this photo sent to the INQUIRER by the Philippine Eagle Foundation based in Davao City.

Tribal truce holding

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet—Peace has been holding since a temporary ceasefire was imposed Saturday between two warring tribes in the Cordillera.

Three men belonging to the Bugnay tribe in Tinglayan, Kalinga, and the Betwagan tribe in Sadanga, Mt. Province, were killed in last week's clashes over a boundary dispute.

Supt. Rimas Calixto, chief of the Cordillera police's intelligence and investigation division, said the ceasefire is in effect only in the areas outside of Bugnay and Betwagan.

The ceasefire was forged by the *pangats* or peace pact holders of the two tribes, reports reaching the regional police office here, said.

The tribal war started when Betwagan men attacked Bugnay tribesmen on Dec. 4, killing Luis Alunday, also known as "Bauel."

On Wednesday, Pablo Timmayaw was killed allegedly by Bugnay tribesmen in Barangay Appas in Tabuk, Kalinga. Timmayaw was on his tricycle when ambushed by Bugnay tribesmen, police said.

On Dec. 6, Calixto received another report that a Bugnay tribesman killed Pusat Awichen in Kalinga.

When a conflict erupts between two tribes, their members are sometimes made to return to their towns because retaliations can occur anywhere.

Baguio City officials used to declare the city as a "peace zone" so that the conflict will not be waged here.

The disputed boundary between the tribes is a thick pine forest and watershed area that both tribes agreed in 1999 to be a "no-man's land" pending settlement of conflicting claims.

Reports, however, said Bugnay tribesmen led by barangay captain Supply Alunday, a former Cordillera People's Liberation Army commander, logged the area.

The Betwagan tribesmen then killed Bauel and subsequent retaliations ensued.

Classes in elementary and high schools in the two villages have been suspended since the conflict erupted. The farms have also been left untended, reports said. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Mayor ordered arrested

BY VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ILAGAN, Isabela—The Sandiganbayan ordered last week the arrest of an Isabela town mayor and three other town officials for alleged misuse of public funds.

Ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan's first division were Mayor Renato Vizcarra of Ramon town, municipal treasurer Teresa Cruz, municipal accountant Virginia Honorio and municipal budget officer Macaria Ang.

The four officials posted a P20,000 bail bond each on Friday.

Records showed that Vizcarra and the three officials allegedly conspired in 1998 to use P360,000 from the maintenance and operating funds of the local government to pay for gasoline expenses.

Vizcarra claimed he had to take the money from the local government to maintain the delivery of basic services to his constituents.

He said the money was used to pay for gasoline of ambulances and other government vehicles during that time.

The Sandiganbayan earlier ordered the National Bureau of Investigation, the town police and the provincial police to serve the arrest order against Vizcarra and the three officials.

Vizcarra brushed aside the charges as "mere mudslinging."

"I am working for my town and I do not feel pressured by the charges against me," he said.

Laguna homeowners lament eviction

BY ROMULO O. PONTE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BIÑAN, Laguna—About 1,500 homeowners in various parts of Laguna are facing eviction for failing to pay their monthly amortizations.

Evangeline Pallones, president of the Sagip Tahanan at Kabuhayan ng Laguna Inc., said her group was appealing to government housing authorities to lower the amortization of those whose breadwinners have died or whose sources of livelihood and employment have shut down.

The group has more than 10,000 members from Laguna.

The homeowners said they were compelled to appeal to their respective loaning agencies, particularly to the National Home Mortgage Financing Corp. (NHMFC) and the Pag-ibig for lower payments.

Their stories reflect the economic downturn now being experienced by employees and even managers.

For eight years now, Charito Anunciation and her husband Jesus, division chief of the Department of Energy, have lived in a 133-square-meter housing unit at the Golden City Subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. They are paying P4,500 monthly for it.

Charito had to budget her husband's salary of P20,000 for the family's daily needs, including the schooling of their three children, to be able to pay the amortization.

The couple was shocked one day in April last year when somebody came to tell them that their unit has been foreclosed and that somebody was interested in buying it and, in fact, had already paid P41,000 to the NHMFC.

This forced the couple to borrow P51,000 from a lending company at usurious rates just so they could pay back the NHMFC.

The mortgage body agreed to the couple's appeal as long as they doubled their monthly amortization to P9,500.

"How can we afford to pay this amount every month when we have difficulty paying it when it was still at P4,500 monthly?" Charito lamented.

George Acarial and his wife Racquel, who have three children, own a unit at Mabuhay Homes in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. For five years, they have been paying a monthly amortization of P3,876.

When both were retrenched from their company in 1999, they used P100,000 from their P400,000 separation pay to pay the Pag-Ibig Fund for interests alone. Acarial now supports his family by operating a tricycle unit, which he bought out of his separation pay.

"We can now barely survive because we have no more stable income and our children are schooling," he said.

Acarial is among thousands of homeowners who appealed to housing government agencies to lighten their burden of paying their monthly amortization.

Phoebe Pondevida of South City Homes, Biñan said her difficulty in paying monthly to the loan agencies started when her husband, Sergio, 50, the only breadwinner in the family, died in 1991.

Her eldest son, 27, who graduated in college, had stopped supporting the family when he got married. She is now depending on her 24-year-old daughter for support.

The 1,500 homeowners are going to Manila today with their P1,000 each "Operation Bayad" campaign.

They are just a fraction of more than 10,000 households in the province who have similar predicaments.

Text messages on son's accident irk SBMA chief

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—A son of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo and six others, including a nephew of Speaker Jose de Venecia, were hurt when their government vehicle turned turtle after avoiding a road construction project here on Dec. 1, belated reports said.

The accident report was kept under wraps from the media. Payumo confirmed that his son drove and damaged the red Pajero issued to the SBMA but decried the "onslaught of text messages" that said his son, Antonio or Tonito, 29, was drunk while driving.

"He was really traveling fast. But he was definitely not drunk," Payumo said of his son.

The Pajero turned turtle after the younger Payumo avoided ramming into a concrete post left by the contractor of the Argonaut Highway.

The road was being widened and has not yet been cleared of some obstructions, it was learned.

The young Payumo and his six companions were treated for injuries at the James Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City.

His companions were Jayvee de Venecia, 30, of Makati City, four women and a man.

Reports said the group had just come from a drinking spree at the Magellan's Landing Bar here when the accident happened at about 2:30 a.m. on Dec. 1.

Payumo said he was going to pay for the vehicle's repair.

He said text messages about his son's alleged drunken driving began to spread "like wildfire." These, according to him, were traced to mobile phones belonging to some personnel of the Department of Tourism.

Olongapo Mayor Katherine Gordon denied that her husband, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, or some DOT personnel were behind the alleged text campaign.

THE ILL-FATED Mitsubishi Pajero.

"Of course not. Why would we do that? We did not know about it until some of our close friends called us up. Hospital workers didn't even inform me about it. It's just one of those accidents," she told the INQUIRER.

She said her husband would not do such thing although Payumo had filed 18 cases against Gordon right after he was stripped of the SBMA chairmanship at the start of the Estrada administration in 1998.

"No, no. My husband would not do that," she said.

Mayor Gordon said she and her husband had strictly banned their children, relatives and friends from using government cars.

Payumo did not say how his son got hold of the service car or how rare or frequent it had been used by his son for unofficial purposes.

"As a father, I felt relieved because no one died or was seriously hurt," he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Desierto 'bribe' on tape

(From page A1)

of them."

In a press briefing, Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito P. Gervacio said Francisco committed a grave mistake in presenting a taped conversation. He said that "evidently two criminal acts have been committed."

Petron scam

Roxas' Bank of Southeast Asia (BSA), now under a new name and management, was involved in the so-called Petron scam of 1996, when a criminal syndicate diverted Philippine National Bank checks worth P539 million payable to the Bureau of Customs by encashing them at the BSA.

The NBI investigated the scam at BSA's own request. It then referred the case to Desierto.

When BSA was faced with a possible bank run in 1997, Roxas and his counsel Francisco asked Desierto to defer the investigation for a few months.

In exchange, Desierto asked for and received beta camera parts and P500,000 in cash. (Francisco insisted that Desierto received the full amount.)

From 1997 till now, the Ombudsman has not acted on the NBI referral or prosecuted the criminal syndicate.

At yesterday's forum, Francisco said he was "able to make Roxas recall what happened" on that fateful day in Sept. 10, 1997.

The Oct. 26 meeting took place two days after Francisco submitted his impeachment complaint against Desierto.

Also present at the meeting were lawyers Ireneo J. Marasigan and Rolando P.Domingo, both vice presidents of ASB Realty Corp. and lawyers Mark M. Averilla and Arthur Defensor Jr., formerly Accra lawyers and now external counsel of Roxas.

Because he knew the meeting was being tape recorded, he said he used the time to elicit from Roxas his account of the bribery.

He said he did this by pretending to Roxas that he had seen Desierto again and that the Ombudsman wanted to make a "social call" on him.

A gift

In the tape, Francisco reminded Roxas that it was Ding Timbol, who was with the office of the Ombudsman, who asked for the betacam parts from them.

"*Ah, oo, oo, parang* (yes, like) . . . as a gift," Roxas confirmed. "*Tama. Tama. Tama yata.* (That's correct.) Yeah, I remember that."

In the tape, Roxas then said that he had been the one who booked the hotel room for the meeting with Desierto. But Francisco corrected Roxas, saying it was actually he who had booked the room at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Roxas then confirmed Francisco's account.

"If I remember it right, you know, even the room was expensive, you know why?" Roxas said. "I think he, Desierto, even insisted, no? Ah . . . you know . . . We are all trusted, so no problem, no? . . . Even insisted that it should be a room, no at Edsa Plaza, Shangrila Edsa Plaza, and then he said, all of a sudden, he will call you, and then you

DESIERTO

will call me, 'Oh, Luke, *saan* (where)?' *Parang* secretive, *yun, no* (he's a secretive sort, isn't he)?"

Roxas then said they ended up being booked in the presidential suite.

"So expensive for a meeting. But no choice,"Roxas said.

Francisco told the forum that Roxas had booked a room at Edsa Plaza for the meeting with Desierto but at the last minute, the venue was changed and that he himself booked a room at the Westin.

In the tape, Francisco then reminded Roxas that they were "toying" with giving P500,000 to P1 million to Desierto.

"Parang P400, di ba? Ah, I forgot na," Roxas said. Francisco said it was P500,000, but Roxas insisted it was P400,000.

"We made *tawad yata* . . . ," Roxas added.

Inadmissible evidence?

Gervacio said that under Section 4 of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, a tape recording cannot be used in any judicial, quasi-judicial or legislative proceeding.

"It is inadmissible as evidence," he said, "since it is illegal to record a conversation unless ordered by the court."

He also said the taped conversation violated Article 209 of the Revised Penal Code.

"This law deals with the confidentiality of every transaction between a client and his counsel. It is evident then that Francisco violated this confidentiality rule," Gervacio said.

The taped conversation did not strengthen the impeachment complaint against Desierto, he added.

"It even destroyed the complaint because it has been polluted with illegal matters, which are all hearsay in the first place," he stressed.

Desierto said he was not bothered by Francisco's latest media "gimmick," as he maintained that Francisco's complaint was "full of lies and inconsistencies."

He said he was unperturbed, and vowed to pursue the cases filed against ousted ex-President Joseph Estrada "until justice is done."

He had earlier claimed that the impeachment complaint was part of a "well-funded demolition job" aimed at "all the institutions" involved in the historic trial of Estrada.

Said Desierto: "Despite the obvious objective of the complainant to derail the prosecution of Estrada, we assure you that our office will not be bothered by this."

Desierto said his office would never waiver in its firm resolve to send Estrada and his cohorts in jail for "plundering the nation's coffers."

He added: "But they can't rock our determination. We will prove them wrong."

Desierto also mentioned that Roxas had already executed an affidavit disowning Francisco, his former lawyer.

Roxas had also claimed that by "revealing publicly without my consent the details of the legal matters I entrusted to him as my lawyer, Atty. Francisco has betrayed his lawyer's oath."

Three minutes

The tape that Francisco presented lasted only about three minutes. He said the entire meeting lasted one and a half hours, and that it was all recorded.

He told the INQUIRER that he wanted the House committee on justice to hold hearings on the impeachment complaint so that he could present the taped conversation as part of his evidence against Desierto.

"I will ask to subpoena the original tape which is with Mr. Roxas," Francisco said.

The 58-member committee on justice chaired by Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelo Libanan is set today to start deliberating on whether the impeachment complaint is sufficient in form—that is, that it was among other things properly endorsed.

In the forum, Moreno said that he didn't see the committee finding the complaint as insufficient in form.

But he said there was "real danger" that the committee would not be able to gather a majority of the members to attend today's meeting.

Moreno said the new law on impeachment rules required that a majority of the members must vote if the complaint is sufficient in form.

He said that under the new rules, the committee had until next week to make an affirmative action on the complaint in its determination of its sufficiency of form.

In the same forum, "running priest" Robert Reyes and lawyer Argee Guevarra of Arm the Lawyers threw their support behind Desierto.

Raffy Albert of Akbayan said that the groups planned to picket Congress on Dec. 19 to press the House to conduct hearings on the impeachment complaint. ***With a report from Michael Lim Ubac***

$600M less holiday cheer from OFWs

(From page A1)

dollar as expected in the run-up to Christmas.

The peso was trading around 51.96 to the dollar on Tuesday, little changed from 51.95 on Nov. 1, when remittances traditionally start to begin to pick up.

Anicento Sagana, information officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, agreed that the global economic slowdown had made overseas workers more cautious with their money.

"Everybody is trying to hang on to their money and not spending as much as they used to because of the global recession . . . Most people are concerned they may not get a renewal of their job contract so they are trying to save a little more than usual," he said.

Media reports have estimated dollar remittances by overseas Filipino workers—which traditionally accelerate in the last quarter—were expected to be down by at least $600 million this year from last year's $6.05 billion.

Data released by the central bank on Tuesday showed that in the first nine months of the year remittances by overseas Filipino workers totaled $4.1 billion, down from $4.6 billion in the year-earlier period.

While these figures represent money coursed through the banking system, the Owwa believes the actual annual amount given to families in the Philippines may be double the official figure.

"By our own estimate it should easily be double the $6 billion plus (central bank recorded remittances in 2000) . . . Normally in December we estimate around 100,000 workers come home to the Philippines to celebrate Christmas and each is estimated to be carrying around $1,000," Sagana said.

The Owwa estimates up to 7.5 million Filipinos are on work contracts abroad in occupations and industries including airlines, information technology, nursing, seafaring and domestic help.

Two million of them are in the United States, with 1.3 million in the Middle East, and the bulk of the rest in Japan, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, the Owwa says.

Keeping economy afloat

Around 2,300 Filipinos get work overseas every day, and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said their remittances "keep the Philippine economy afloat."

However, many countries are taking a tougher line on the hiring or work conditions of foreign labor in the wake of the global economic slump.

With its economy in near-recession, calls are rising for the Hong Kong government to consider cutting foreign maids' salaries for a second time in three years.

Their salaries were chopped by 5 percent in 1999.

Around 120,000 Filipinos have job contracts in Hong Kong.

Frida Cabrera, who has worked as a domestic helper in Hong Kong for 14 years, said the pay cut issue was causing real anxiety.

"There have been a lot of worries this year . . . especially the scary salary issue . . . It's a nightmare for those working for some employers (who are pushing for a cut)," said the 36-year-old maid. ***Reuters***

Labor chief unfair . ..

(From page A1)

first time that the union was planning to file charges of union busting and unfair labor practice against a labor secretary.

"This is discriminatory. The workers, even in the regional offices, are demoralized," DOLE-EU national president Glen Trampe said in a press conference yesterday.

"If the DOLE can do that to us, how much more in the private sector?" he said.

Trampe said Sto. Tomas decided last week to give a Christmas bonus of P5,000 to those not covered by the collective negotiation agreement (CNA) and P2,000 for union members. (A CNA is for government employees as a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) is for employees in the private sector.)

The union members received an additional Christmas bonus of P3,000, but this amount was considered part of the P6,000 in signing bonus included in the CNA that was approved last year by then Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma.

The extra Christmas bonus, mandated by Administrative Order (AO) 287 Sto. Tomas signed on Dec. 5, was released to employees last week.

The 2,500-member DOLE-EU said it would file charges of union busting and unfair labor practice against Sto. Tomas with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) if she refused to amend AO 287.

The group indicated that it would oppose the confirmation of Sto. Tomas, a former CSC chair and incumbent chair of a conference in the International Labor Organization.

"She is discouraging unionism in her own turf by favoring those who are non-union members," said Ferdinand Gaite, DOLE-EU vice president and Courage national president.

The DOLE-EU represents 31 chapters of the labor department nationwide and is an accredited government union in the CSC, which is now encouraging unionism in the public sector.

Unwavering dedication garners international recognition.

A-ONE ACHIEVERS

CMG pays tribute to the best circle of achievers for receiving the ***International Quality Award***. One of the most prestigious international honors given to sales agents who boosted their company's business in the name of quality and excellence. CMG's top-notch agents bagged this distinction for their exceptional service and wholehearted commitment. Helping clients fulfill their dreams of a secure future and a better life. So to our hard-working achievers, hats off to you for a job well done.

Nadgie Veluz - Abueg
Pioneer Region - Metro II

Soledad Aquino
Mentors Region - Metro II

Bella Co
Milestone Insurance Services - Binondo

Marlebeth Co
Golden Age Insurance Services - Binondo

Lim King Uy
Long Life Insurance Agency - Binondo

Gloria Sonsing
Long Life Insurance Agency - Binondo

Alda Tan
AR Insurance Underwriters - Binondo

Rosa To Uy
Long Life Insurance Agency - Binondo

John Wu
Long Life Insurance Agency - Binondo

CMG
...of Australia
Plan ahead. Get ahead.

CMG Life Insurance Co., Inc. · CMG Plans, Inc. · CMG Health Co., Inc.

30/F Philippine Stock Exchange Centre West Tower Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
Tel No. 636-2721 · Toll Free: 1-800-1-888-0999 · Facsimile: 636-2761 · customerservice@cmgphil.com · www.cmgphil.com

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Baguio taxis' funny names

BY FRANK CIMATU
Baguio City

IMAGINE yourself as a desperate man waiting for a taxicab to hold up. What if the first cab to come is named "Magsisi Taxi?"

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

So you let that pass, but what comes next is "Repent Taxi." Then coming in succession are taxicabs named "Psalm 23:1 Taxi," "Praise the Living God" and "Jesus Christ Joy of Many."

Would you still want to rob taxis or prostrate in front of an incoming light like St. Paul finding enlightenment?

Taxi operators in Baguio City and Benguet are using religious admonitions and words of wisdom in hoping to prevent holdup incidents and robberies prevalent in the Christmas season.

Police reports show that no "Born-again taxis" have been held up so far this year.

Some other lines with biblical names in Baguio and Benguet are "The Servants of Lord," "The Chalice Taxi," "God Never Lets You Down Taxi," "Forever Praising Taxi," "Blessing and Grace," "Isiah 9:6," "Proverbs 21:21 Taxi" and "Jehovah Shallom."

Others are "God's Grace Taxi," "Faithfulness," "How Excellent is Thy Name," "Brotherly Love," "Light Bearer," "Acts 2:38 Taxi," "Seventy Times Seven," "Peaceful Taxi" and "Desire of All Nations."

You will not miss the last one because the name is printed all over the car body.

The first taxicab that probably started the craze was the "Great is Thy Faithfulness" in 1997.

Trucking services

Even the trucking services here have seen the light.

There is a "Walk With Faith Transport," "Potter's Hand Enterprises Transport," and "Bible Deliverance," which implies that the truck is not transporting potatoes and cabbages but Gideon bibles.

New Age seekers can ride the "Soul Quest" and "Macchu Picchu."

Of course, there are other funny names for taxis in Baguio.

A new one is "Ransomed Taxi" which should have escorted businessman Reghis Romero II in Basilan. "80 Proof Taxi" is for those needing designated drivers.

Then there are the "Ruggedly Handsome," "Kissing Bandit," "Chaine des Rotisseurs Taxi," "Folk Rock Taxi," "Lesbayan Taxi" and "Kikkoman Transport" which reminds you of sushi.

Then there are the "April-Mae-Jon Taxi," which is named after the owner's children, "Bourgeousie Transport," "Singkit Taxi," "Mooo Taxi," "Gene Ross Taxi," "Warlord Taxi," "Chief Cook Taxi," "For Your Eyes Only Taxi," "You are Wonderful Taxi" and "The Torrent Valley."

Others are the "Irian Jaya Tembagapura Taxi," "Strawberry Maker taxi, "H20 Cress Taxi," "12287 Taxi," "12286 Taxi" and "Praise Lines Taxi."

If you got married in 1981, look for the "20th Anniversary Taxi."

It's weird to have a "Forrest Gump Taxi" when Forrest is known for running rather than riding.

If you are a true-blue non-government organization worker, look for the truck named "Vision and Mission Transport." If you are a chemistry student, look for "CO(HNCO)2 (C2HS)2 Transport."

You want to be real about it, ride the "Domestic Transport."

If you can't take it any more, ride the "I Am What I Am Taxi."

Lanterns breathe life into lahar-ravaged town

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Minalin, Pampanga

A NEW start on life. That's what the plate-sized Christmas lanterns, spruced up with glitzy red, green, gold and silver aluminum foils, have given residents of a fishing village buried by Mt. Pinatubo's lahar.

The lanterns breathe life into Barangay San Francisco I in Minalin town in Pampanga, transforming decrepit dwellings, rebuilt from houses half-spared by the rampage of volcanic sediments, into busy, colorful work cottages.

The village sheds off its face of poverty when craftsmen buckle down to work starting October, says Nestor Lugtu, one of the pioneers in lantern making in the town.

He beams with pride, noting that about 100 families are merry because the business, although seasonal, helps stave off the hunger that has gripped this village when lahar started choking the rich fishing grounds of the San Francisco River after the 1991 eruptions.

The village, located at the southernmost tip of the coastal town of Minalin and reached after a bumpy and dusty ride by tricycle, has 15 families in the same business as the Lugtus.

The rest, especially the women, sell the goods in markets and subdivisions all over Pampanga. Wholesale buyers from Tarlac and Bataan and Olongapo and Angeles cities regularly come to place orders ahead of October.

Not original

Lugtu, 46, admits that the decors are not unique to the village. In fact, he says he and the other pioneers simply imitated and later improved the lanterns they at first retailed from Divisoria.

The enterprising *viajeros* of Minalin, known for trading houseware items and appliances all over the country, packed their jeeps with the dazzling lanterns to sell these back home, he said.

Sometime in 1989, Lugtu, then a part-time fisherman and *viajero*, dismantled one to unravel the design, reassembling it from memory and mastering how it is put together.

By 1990, he and 30 others went into the business. His startup capital was only less than P10,000. The enterprise, which engaged members of the immediate and extended family, proved to be profitable.

Barely preparing for the second year, Lugtu shelved the plan when Pinatubo erupted. The entire village decided to stay put, waiting for better days to come.

Things went for the worse when strong rains loosened volcanic sediments from the slope of the volcano, draining these down to the Pasig-Potrero River and then onto the San Francisco River.

On the east of Minalin, Bacolor town was already in the throes of death. It was more elevated yet it was entombed by lahar.

Minalin, a swampland originally belonging to Macabebe town, could face a more unfortunate end, Lugtu had thought.

"That's when we left for Cabcom (Clark Air Base Command in Angeles City), then to Ayala (on the foothills of Mt. Arayat on the side of Magalang town). It was always moving, evacuating," he recalls.

But wherever the Minalin lantern-makers established temporary abode, they brought the business along. Lugtu says the disaster gave him more reason to strive anew in life.

"We (evacuees) cannot forever depend on the mercy of caregivers," he says.

By 1993 and in Ayala where the mood of uncertainty and sadness always prevailed among Minalin residents, he was back in business, restarting on "5-6 (loan shark terms)."

Pride

Like other lantern-makers, Lugtu says the decors gave them pride and brought food to the family table that used to have relief packs of sardines and instant noodles that were irregularly supplied.

"Our situation may be depressing but lantern making has eased our plight," he says.

At the Sta. Lucia resettlement site, also in Magalang, San Francisco residents turned their streets into "Christmas boulevards," keeping their hands busy cutting, piecing together decors all day long.

NESTOR Lugtu, one of the pioneers in lantern making in Minalin, Pampanga, shows off the town's famous Christmas products. TONETTE OREJAS

"You know the residents are from San Francisco because their streets are the most colorful, what with all the hundreds of lanterns that they turn up daily," Lugtu beams.

When lahar came few and far between after 1997, San Francisco residents alternately live in the resettlement and in the old village. When it rains hard, they go back to Sta. Lucia. For most of the year, they are in San Francisco where they have permanently resumed the business.

Lugtu sticks to three designs and they sell their products cheap, enough to give craftsmen of the much-celebrated Christmas lanterns in the City of San Fernando a run for their money.

The star-in-a-circle sells at P15; the *ekis* or entwined garlands, P10; and the two-layered fountain, P18.

Family enterprise

Lugtu, his four grown-up children and his five nephews are all in the business. He says it does not require so many skills. Dexterous hands, creative eyes and patience are essential though.

It is still Lugtu that cuts the foil to ensure that the designs are strictly followed.

Hunched before a table or propped up on a bamboo bed, they start production starting at 6 a.m. By 11 a.m., everyone is tired with the monotonous chores, he reckons.

Each day, they churn out an average of 300 pieces. Lugtu's wife Rose, 46, handles the marketing. "Trust is highly valued in the business that offers income opportunities to villagers," she stresses.

Rose says everything is sold locally and the export prospect is not being thought of. To her view, there's no unique Pinoy character to the lanterns but they sell like hotcakes among budget-conscious buyers.

Lugtu estimates that the P18,000 capital he put up from loan sharks will earn for him double in profits. He says the overhead cost is so little that much of the earnings are retained to pay for the loans and to share among the workers.

However, the cost of materials has doubled since 1989, forcing half of the original lantern makers to leave the business or scale it down depending on available capital.

"We really need capital support. We'll be happy to pay for a two-percent interest rate on loans," Lugtu appeals. None has come in the last 10 years.

Mayor Edgar Flores says he will link the lantern makers to credit cooperatives.

"They deserve support. They have cracked the culture of dependence that politicians and groups (assisting Pinatubo victims) have ingrained in the minds of our people," Flores says.

A dream hospital for the rural poor

BY GIA DAMASO-DUMO
Agoo, La Union

IMAGINE Juan de la Cruz finally getting his due in health care. He walks into an air-conditioned clinic for consultation, gets his laboratory and diagnostic exams done in no time by fully automated machines, and later undergoes surgery in a modern and fully equipped operating room with state-of the art devices—just like his high-hat neighbor.

His rich neighbor pays the usual cost of first-class medical services, but Juan, who becomes cured of his ills and lives a long healthy life as a farmer, pays according to his means.

Another utopian dream in health care? Perhaps not.

In La Union's oldest town, will soon operate what could be one of the most modern government hospitals in the country intended to serve the rural poor.

The La Union Provincial Hospital, a 26-building complex sprawled over nearly four hectares of open, unpolluted plain in Agoo, is a "gift" of the European Commission of the European Union to the province and the once earthquake-devastated town. (Agoo was one of the worst hit by the 1990 earthquake.)

Started in April 1999 and completed this month, this "gift" jangled a total cost of 13.5 euro or approximately P650 million, according to Jean-Paul Pierre, resident-engineer of Tractebel-Chema-Search (TCS) Consortium, the project consultant.

This amount includes about P160 million worth of the latest, top-of-the-line medical, diagnostic and laboratory machines and equipment, perhaps not found in any government medical facility in the country.

Impressive

When I visited the site, what I saw was virtually an oasis in a (health care) desert. Not only did the complex, with its impressive finish, manicured gardens and tiled roofs, look like a cluster of charming vacation villas, each building houses facilities and amenities that can make one drool.

THE LA UNION Provincial Hospital, a 26-building complex sprawled over nearly four hectares of open, unpolluted plain in Agoo, is a "gift" of the European Commission of the European Union to the province. GIA DAMASO

As in a mechanized dollhouse, all equipment had been assembled and placed, as if waiting only for the giant hand to set the dolls and press the "go" button.

Almost all furniture, machines and equipment—all top-of-the-line and bought only last year—were supplied by Vamed Engineering of Austria and Esaote of Italy, both leading manufacturers in Europe.

There are two operating rooms with state-of-the-art machines, including a cautering machine and a prized C-arm mobile x-ray, and an eight-bed intensive care unit with one cardiac monitor per bed.

In another building are several consultation and emergency rooms, each fully outfitted with small-to-large devices, such as ultrasound machine and ophthalmic apparatuses, and centralized air-conditioning.

Also in the outpatient building is a high-tech x-ray room and a dental unit, complete with dental x-rays and the best tools. Oxygen and other needed medical gases are also to be piped into the rooms from a central source.

The hospital has a bed capacity of 116, concentrated in two buildings, one for obstetric-gynecological patients and the other for pediatric patients. Each ward contains two to four beds and its own toilet and bath, and could easily pass off as a standard hotel room.

Aside from a radio and communications room, there are comfortable conference rooms, an automated and sanitized laundry room equipped with washing machines, sewing machines and steam presses, a spacious cafeteria and kitchen complete with all-stainless steel deep fryers, ovens and racks and piped-in cooking gas, and even a room where "watchers" can rest and bathe.

Mother-friendly

The truly mother-friendly delivery and recovery rooms and nursery, complete with the latest incubator and life support systems that could revive the frailest baby, are every mother's and doctor's dream. There are also buildings for the laboratory, mortuary and carpentry, as well as residences for doctors and staff.

The donors evidently spared no expense in executing the design which, according to Pierre, complied with the standards set by the Department of Health. The design included energy-efficient skylights and aesthetic grid ceilings and "rain pits." Even the preference for two dozen one-story buildings instead of a compact multi-story building was also explained as a "DOH standard."

Pierre explained with pride that the European Commission chose to involve locals in the implementation of the project because such would be more beneficial to the country.

After years of planning and negotiation, the project finally took off during the term of then Gov. Justo Orros Jr., who is given credit for working out the project with the DOH and the European Commission.

A ceremonial hand-over of the completed hospital will take place tomorrow between European Union Ambassador Yves Gazzo and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit on one end, and La Union Gov. Victor Ortega and Agoo Mayor Eufranio Eriguel on the receiving end.

Pierre said the hospital complex is "self-supporting" in that it can generate its own water supply and electricity. Its water supply is pumped from a spring located about two kilometers away and is chlorinated in the reservoir before use.

A 650-kilowatt emergency diesel generator can energize the entire complex.

According to Dr. Fernando Astom, newly appointed chief of hospital, it would cost about P50 million to fully operate the facility, and to serve 50,000 outpatients yearly. That means an additional burden to the provincial government, which already spends about one-fourth of its annual budget for the maintenance of all devolved government hospitals under its jurisdiction, he added.

Some critics have speculated that handing over a "First World hospital" to a "Third World community" would have disastrous results or create "white elephants," given the prohibitive maintenance cost. Pierre himself had commented that the hospital could have been "over-designed" for the needs of the community, and feared that only 60 percent of all the equipment would actually be used.

But Astom, former training chief of the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center in San Fernando City, was undaunted.

Bringing together his wide experience in private and government hospital management and his intensive medical training here and abroad, he has proposed a "private and public mix" type of revenue generation for the hospital when it begins a phased-in operation in January next year.

The concept was basically to categorize patients based on their capacity to pay and charge them medical fees based on their category.

In effect, paying patients would help subsidize the medical expenses of non-paying patients and every Juan de la Cruz would have access to the same quality services and facilities offered by the hospital. . . .

SINGER

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that SINGER SEWING MACHINE COMPANY, a US corporation, more known as SINGER, has not closed business operations in the country. SINGER has been doing business in the Philippines since 1910, under a license issued by the Philippine government to market SINGER products, and continues to do so to this date.

This is to correct the inaccurate information in recent newspaper reports.

SINGER 150 ANNIVERSARY 1851 2001

Visit our 208 dealers nationwide for our full range of product offerings. Avail of SINGER's easy installment plan of 6, 12, 18 and 24 months. Catch our Christmas Promotions and get a gift of a Noritake 12 pc. Breakfast Set for any purchase of a zigzag sewing machine, refrigerators and freezer, color tv, gas range and single tub washing machine. And bring home the SINGER smiles this Christmas!

DEALERS:

METRO MANILA: GLOSAN MARKETING - 0013 Taft Ave. Ext., Baclaran, Paranaque DE CADIZ MARKETING - 140 Real St., Pamplona, Las Pinas W.G. LLANTO GEN. MDSE - 312 M.L. Quezon, Taguig D.S. AZOTE MKTG. - 48 J.P. Rizal Ext., Comembo, Makati City JLB COMMERCIAL - Costalina Bldg., Rizal Ave., Taytay Rizal / Gate 2, Marcos Highway, Cogeo, Antipolo City JAYMAR COMMERCIAL - 24-A Ortigas Ave., Ext., Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Pasig City ALACAR MARKETING - 199 A. Bonifacio Ave., Tanong, Marikina R-ONE MARKETING - 768 A. Bonifacio Ave., Tanong, Marikina R.E. DELA VEGA ENT.- Bangcal, Meycauayan **MANILA:** DC MATEO MKTG. & GM - 086 Quezon St., Tondo SERGON MARKETING - 834-838 C.M. Recto Ave.,Manila' **QUEZON CITY:** GRACE PAG-ASA MARKETING - 285 Commonwealth Ave.,Brgy. Comm. JOBYMAR MARKETING - 30 Dangay St., Project 7 / 402 Culiat, Tandang Sora Area 9-B Veterans Village, Pasong Tamo GAMBOA MARKETING - Gulod Novaliches LISAY ENGINEERING AND TRADING - 217 Parc Condo 226, 15th Ave., Cubao **CALOOCAN CITY:** DAC MARKETING - PH 4 PKG. 4, MAIN ROAD, Bagong Silang G.B. CORTEZ MARKETING Camarin Road cor. Zapote Road, Camarin C. DE GUZMAN MARKETING - 134 Gen. San Miguel, Sangandaan C.P. VILLAMIN MARKETING - 312 F. Roxas St., 7th Ave., Caloocan **CAVITE:** J.C. MOLOD ENTERPRISES - 1 Daang Amaya, Tanza 4RH TRADING - 16-C Camerino Ave., Dasmarinas AWING MARKETING 330 San Nicolas, Bacoor 5-A HILOTIN MARKETING - Block 8, Lot 1, San Miguel, Bagong Bayan, Dasmarinas EMY A/C- J.P. Rizal, Silang **PALAWAN:** YARA MKTG. - Rizal Ave., Puerto Princesa City E.V.SANTANDER ENT. - 247-B Malvar St., Puerto Princesa City R.B. BURCE MARKETING - National Hi-way, Brgy. San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City MANANG ROSE GEN. MDSE. - Olorga Bldg., Rizal Ave., Puerto Princesa City **SAN PABLO:** MRM MARKETING - 1042 Pooc, Sta. Rosa, Laguna HERMAN'S MARKETING - Market Size, National Hi-way, Tiaong, Quezon DORIS MARKETING - 199 Merchan St., Lucena City ELJ MARKETING - Diversion Road, Brgy. Domoit, Lucena City F.J. COLINARES MARKETING - Brgy. Parian, Calamba, Laguna M & N MARKETING - Quezon St., Zone 1, Atimonan, Quezon LO BUENO MKTG. - 1349 Rizal Blvd., Ballbago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna **BATANGAS:** EMERALD MARKETING - J.P. Rizal St., Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro ECS MARKETING - D. Silang St., Batangas City DREAMWORLD MARKETING - 79 Rizal St, Lipa City HABAGAT MARKETING - Maghinog Bldg., F. Castro St., Brgy. 3 Nasugbu, Batangas AR PILOTIN TRADING - Brgy. Palanas, Lemery, Batangas **LEGASPI:** CHEERS MARKETING - Market Site, Tabaco, Albay NUYLAN MARKETING - Rizal St., Daraga, Albay MASBATE MARKETING - Quezon St., Masbate, Masbate MENDOZA MARKETING - Rawis, Virac, Catanduanes NORCOR MARKETING - Sorsogon Shopping Center, Sorsogon, Sorsogon SHIRELD MARKETING - Lapu-Lapu St., Catalngan, Masbate R. ROMABON ENT. - P-4 Divino Rostro, Ziga Ave., Tabaco Albay JENELS ENTERPRISE - Zone 2 Rellalosa Bldg., Aytona St., Libon, Libay NONIE-LINA ENTERPRISES - Francia Virac, Catanduanes **NAGA:** BARRION SALES CENTER - Poblacion Polangui, Albay HI-STANDARD MARKETING - Panganiban Drive., Naga City ASANZA MARKETING - Dr. Santiago Ortiga St., San Miguel, Iriga City AHL MARKETING - Labo, Camarines Norte **BULACAN:** PANTOLA MARKETING - Bagumbayan Bulacan CRUZZA MARKETING - Pob. Malolos MARI-MAR MARKETING - 31 M.G. de Leon St., Sta. Maria CARWIN GEN. MDSE. McArthur Hi-way, Borol 1 ALGON MARKETING - Bunlo, Bocaue JOSARY GEN. MDSE - 17 Gen. Alejo Santos Hi-way, Bustos SANEM COMMERCIAL 139 Tangos, Balluag **ANGELES:** BOCK MARKETING - Cor. Henson & Burgos Sts. ANGELES APPL. CENTER - Plaridel St. MV HERMOGENES MARKETING -FRM Bldg., Henson St. **PAMPANGA:** ODON MARKETING - 9 Alvenida St., Floridablanca MR. R. BORJA MARKETING - 5284 Dau Complex Hill St., Dau, Mabalacat **BATAAN:** TJE MARKETING - Mariveles Public Market, Ricarte St., San Carlos, Mariveles **CABANATUAN:** NEW PADIERNOS - 242 Del Pilar St. JOLI ENTERPRISES - Melencio St. **NUEVA ECIJA:** ALEJA ENTERPRISES Tedmill Bldg., Bonifacio St., San Jose City LB ALBERTO APPL. CENTER - Magbitang Apartment, Tinio St., San Lorenzo, Gapan **TARLAC:** JV MUNOZ MARKETING - F. Tanledo St., Blk 6, San Nicolas MERCY BANAG MARKETING - M.H. Del Pilar St.,Panique CHAIRMAINE APPLIANCE - McArthur Highway, Sto. Domingo II, Capas MP ULAR MARKETING - Stall No. 6, Grace Complex, Rizal St. Poblacion **DAGUPAN:** CT ROSARIO TRADING - Burgos St. **PANGASINAN:** JT MARKETING - Carmen Rosales ADELIO MARKETING - Manaog **BAGUIO:** ED MARKETING - 105 Hilltop St. FAMILY MARKETING - #77 Second Floor Maharlika Livelihood Center **ILOCOS SUR:** JAVIER TRADING - Baleleng, Bantay JUBILADO MARKETING - National hi-way, San Isidro, Candon City FLEXI MARKETING - Brgy. 11 Gen. Segundo Ave.,Laoag City GLOBAL MARKETING - Agtangao, Bangued, Abra **LA UNION:** ARBAN GEN. SERVICES - 528 Quezon Ave., San Fernando, La Union BAUANG HOME A/C - Guinavite, Bauang PRB MARKETING - Brgy. San Nicolas Sur Agoo **ISABELA:** 4-S MARKETING - 04 Antonio St., Centro Alicia CORA MARKETING - Centro Roxas RTC COMMERCIAL - Public Market, Aurora RTM MARKETING - National Hi-way, Cauayan LUCKY MARKETING - Don Conciliar Ave., Cauayan ROSEANNE JOY M/S - Public Market San Mateo PAYLESS COMMERCIAL - Centro, San Mateo B & D MARKETING - Cauayan City **CAGAYAN:** BOLANDO MARKETING - Bulala Camalaniugan CORTEZ BUSINESS CENTER - 29 Caritan Sur, Tuguegarao DM'S SALES CENTER - 19 Luna St., Tuguegarao LEYNARD A. JOVE MKTG.- Bagumbayan, Lal-lo JBD's SALES CENTER - #11 Campos St., Karitan Centro, Tuguegarao J.R. VALIENTE MARKETING - Centro Gonzaga **NUEVA VIZCAYA:** FORTUNE MARKETING - 161 B. Aquino Ave., Pob. South, Solano FNJ MARKETING - National Road, Bayombong VIRGILIO M. GALICIA MKTG. - Gaddang St., Public Market, Solano ESQUIVEL STORE - Public Market, Solano **QUIRINO:** OLVO MARKETING - A. Bonifacio, Diffun XYZ COMMERCIAL - A. Bonifacio Diffun **SANTIAGO CITY:** PILOTIN & SONS ENTERPRISES - 15 National Hi-way, Paridel MAYVILSAN COMMERCIAL - City Road, Calo East **IFUGAO:** RTN MKTG. - Poblacion West, Lamut **CEBU :** WORLD APPLIANCE CENTER - Basak, Mambaling FCK APPLIANCE CENTER - Tabunok, Talisay RHEYLYN's APPLIANCE CENTER - Carcar TAMPUS APPLIANCE CENTER - San Francisco, Camotes Is. **BOHOL:** TBC HOME APPLIANCE - Poblacion, Tubigon GEN-KAE - Poblacion, Bimiao JERVIS A/C - Public Market, Calape PEVCO ENTERPRISES - Gallares St., Tagbilaran City **TACLOBAN:** JK JOE APPLIANCE CENTER - M.H. del Pilar St RUDYLOU MARKETING - Real cor. Burgos Sts. TI-IN MARKETING - M.H. del Pilar St MIN-JAMES ENTERPRISES - Brgy. 95A, Calbaan GSIS MARKETING - 119 Gomez St **LEYTE:** GEMELY MARKETING - Carigara CALUTAN MARKETING - Dulag REYNIBA MARKETING - Hinunangan, Southern Leyte **ORMOC:** ORMOC JC MARKETING - P. Burgos St. **NORTHERN SAMAR:** GEE VEE ENTERPRISES - Bobon CATARMAN APPLIANCE CENTER - A. Bonifacio St., Catarman MULTILINE ENTERPRISES - Poblacion, Catarman GWENAMYR H/E - Brgy. Baybay, Catarman VILLEGAS APPLIANCE - M.H, del Pilar St., Catarman P.S. APPLIANCE CENTER - San Jose RH MARKETING - Mapanas CLAD ENTERPRISES - Catubig DAZECO ENTERPRISES - Brgy. Cawayan, Catarman **EASTERN SAMAR:** T & V MARKETING - Kabiton-an St., Giluan PRG MARKETING - Dolores RIPALDA's ENTERPRISES - Quinapundan **BACOLOD:** RG MKTG. II - NCG Bldg., Locsin San Sebastian St. ELMOR MARKETING- Gatuslao St SGC APPLIANCE CENTER - Gatuslao St. FELICITY MARKETING - RML Bldg., Burgos St. L.J.Y. MARKETING - Yunque St., La Carlota T-SQUARED A/C - Subel Bldg., Libertad St. JP APPLIANCE & SERVICES - Lizares Araneta, Bacolod City **NEGROS OCCIDENTAL:** NEW TALISAY APPLIANCE CENTER - Miramar Subd., Talisay **SAN CARLOS CITY:** BROTHER ALL MARKETING - Teacher's Village **ILOILO:** LH CADIGAL ENT. - Nietes St., San Jose, Antique RG MARKETING I - Ortiz St. ERA ENTERPRISES - Montinola Bldg., Ledesma St. TRIPLE O's - Rizal St., Barotac Viejo **CAGAYAN DE ORO:** EMERALD MARKETING - Corrales Ave. S & L ENTERPRISES - J.R. Borja St. RB CABALES MKTG. - Baconga St., Lapasan CARE APPLIANCE CENTER - Varmenta Blvd., Carmen **ILIGAN CITY:** GHAZEL APPLIANCE CENTER - Quezon Ave. MERCADO SALES CENTER - Quezon Ave. **BUKIDNON:** COLLADO SALES - J.P. Rizal St., Brgy. 5, Malaybalay FC MARKETING - Abello St. JAMCEL MARKETING - Fortich St., Malaybalay JAMPIT ENTERPRISE - Ganaban St., Gingoog **OROQUIETA CITY:** BALORIA MARKETING - Independence St. **MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL:** HD ENTERPRISE - Pob. Calamba **OZAMIS CITY:** CMD ENTERPRISE - Rizal Ave. ADVENT MARKETING - #6 Port Road SOLIANO ENTERPRISES - Rizal Ave. **DIPOLOG CITY:** BREKHAR ENTERPRISE - Katipunan cor. Herrera Sts. NARVEL MARKETING - 681 Gen. Luna St. **PAGADIAN CITY:** DEBAR MARKETING - Balangasan District **ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR:** M. BANCORO APPL. & H/E - National Hi-way, Pob. Malangas REEN'S MARKETING - Pob. Aurora VILLAVITO AND SONS - Quirino St., Ipil **ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE:** SINDANGAN MARKETING - R. Magsaysay St.,Sindangan **ZAMBOANGA CITY:** PIOQUINTO MKTG. / PEREZ ENT. / METEOR ENT. : Zamboanga Showroom, Gorotiza Bldg., Gov. Camins Ave. GRACE MARKETING - San Jose Road ENNA MARKETING - Mayor Jaldon St., TARRAH'S MARKETING - San Jose, Gusu RCF HOME A/C - Vitali GTH TRADER CORP. - Room 403 Go Hullo Bldg., Tomas Claudio Extension **BUTUAN CITY:** L. ORONGAN ENTERPRISE - J.C. ZAMORA ST S & L ENTERPRISE - T. Carlo cor. San Francisco Sts. BF ENTERPRISES -G. Flores Ave. ACP MARKETING - Langihan St. **SURIGAO CITY:** SURIGAO H/T - Navarro St. **AGUSAN DEL NORTE:** L & A ENTERPRISES - Public Market, Buenavista JEDA MARKETING - Brgy. 2 San Francisco **DAVAO DEL NORTE:** LME APPL. CENTER - Poblacion Nabunturan **DAVAO ORIENTAL:** LUPON MARKETING - Poblacion, Lupon P & N MARKETING - Lower Cayapas, Matiao Mati **DAVAO DEL SUR:** VLQ MARKETING - #1993 Rizal Ave., Digos **DAVAO CITY:** RB CABALES MARKETING - Door 5 Angeles Bldg., Leon Garcia St., Agdao TFD MARKETING CO. - T.F. Dumadag Co. Inc. 167 J.P. Cabagulo Ave **PANABO CITY:** ARTH MARKETING - Magsaysay St. **GEN. SANTOS CITY:** HOLY CHILD APPLIANCE - Santiago Blvd. HAPPY HOMES MARKETING/MH MARKETING - National Hi-way, Santiago Blvd. **SULTAN KUDARAT:** ABAYA MARKETING - National Hi-way, Isulan **SARANGANI PROVINCE:** MIZRACK APPLIANCE CENTER - Glan **KORONADAL CITY:** FAMILY APPLIANCE CENTER - Gen. Santos Drive **COTABATO:** COTABATO FALCON MARKETING - Roman Villos St. REGION XII APPL. MART - Bonifacio & SK Pendatum St. 88 APPLIANCE CENTER (Midsayap) - Quezon Ave., Midsayap MIDSAYAP APPL.IANCE CENTER - Quezon Ave., Midsayap ELEVAZO APPL. CENTER/JADE APPLIANCE CENTER - Valdez Bldg., Rizal St., Kabacan GREENWORLD APPLIANCE CENTER - Notre Dame Boys Complex, Sinsuat Ave. **KIDAPAWAN CITY:** KIDAPAWAN APPLIANCE CENTER - Ortiz Bldg., Wuezon Blvd. 88 APPLIANCE CENTER (Kidapawan) - Villanueva Bldg., Quezon Blvd.

SINGER
Your Family Company

373 Bonifacio Drive , Port Area, Manila • Customer Hotline: 1-800-100-SINGER outside Manila and 527-9958 within Manila • e-mail address: singerph@i-next.net

Pope condemns terrorism as 'crime against humanity'

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II on Tuesday condemned terrorism as "a true crime against humanity" in an address released in advance of the World Day of Peace on Jan. 1.

"Terrorism is built on contempt for human life," the Pope said in the address.

"For this reason, not only does it commit intolerable crimes, but because it resorts to terror as a political and military means it is itself a true crime against humanity."

He cautioned that the right to defend oneself against terrorism must always "be exercised with respect for moral and legal limits in the choice of ends and means."

The 81-year-old head of the Roman Catholic Church said that next year's World Peace Day would be celebrated in the shadow of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

This had caused people throughout the world to feel a "profound personal vulnerability and a new fear for the future."

He asked how "in the present circumstances," can we speak of justice and forgiveness as the source and condition of peace. But he urged: "We can and we must, no matter how difficult this may be."

The Pope called on people to pray for peace, so that at the beginning of 2002 "by the grace of God, a world in which the power of evil seems once again to have taken the upper hand will in fact be transformed into a world in which the noble aspirations of the human heart will triumph, a world in which true peace will prevail."

In an obvious reference to the US-led war in Afghanistan, the pontiff said that those guilty of terrorist crimes must be identified, but he warned that culpability was always personal and could not be extended to the nation, ethnic group, or religion to which the terrorist group belonged.

He added that international cooperation against terrorist activities must include "courageous and resolute" commitment to relieving the marginalization which facilitates the terrorist.

"The recruitment of terrorists in fact is easier in situations where rights are trampled upon and injustices tolerated over a long period of time," he added.

"Terrorism exploits not just people, it exploits God. It ends by making him an idol to be used for one's own purposes." *AFP*

US MARINES on the ground in southern Afghanistan have to contend with a sandstorm as they walk across the desert. AFP

Tora Bora falls

(From page A1)

ers had agreed to come down from the mountain at 8 a.m. (0330 GMT) Wednesday.

"It's finished," Zaman told journalists. "They told us: 'We don't want to fight with you, we surrender.'"

It was not immediately clear how many out of the al-Qaida forces had surrendered, or whether Bin Laden himself was among them.

An AFP reporter saw that the al-Qaida forces had lost most of their positions as the militia, backed by US air and ground support, advanced up the rugged mountainside, overrunning enemy positions.

US special forces were reported to have joined the militiamen on the ground overnight for the final battle to eliminate al-Qaida as a military presence in Afghanistan.

"We control all of the Melawa and Tora Bora area," military commander Hazrat Ali told reporters earlier. "Except for one place."

He described the area as a "five by five kilometer" region called Regan.

Asked whether Bin Laden could also be in that area, Ali said he was certain "90 percent he is in that Regan place."

Afghan soldiers on the frontlines said US helicopters were involved in overnight air raids and one said he saw about 25 all-terrain vehicles full of US troops pass his position during the night.

They were heading toward Melawa mountain. Although some returned during the night, others were still there, he said.

Another Afghan fighter said he saw about 10 US vehicles carrying 60 to 70 US troops during the night after his unit was advised by radio that the Americans were coming.

Most of Tuesday's shelling was concentrated on a wooded zone near the summit of Tora Bora mountain.

Explosions were heard and clouds of smoke rose from the summit amid the din of assault rifles, machine guns and mortars.

After a night of air and artillery strikes, three Soviet-made T-55 tanks were deployed on a hillside opposite the mountain and a fourth light tank was operating from a valley near Tora Bora village.

Other anti-Taliban commanders said Bin Laden's forces might beat a retreat along the Kharoti Pass, a high and often snowbound track that leads south into Pakistan.

Across the border, Pakistani soldiers have been deployed on mountains south of Tora Bora to stop al-Qaida fighters from crossing the frontier along the 4,700-meter White Mountains.

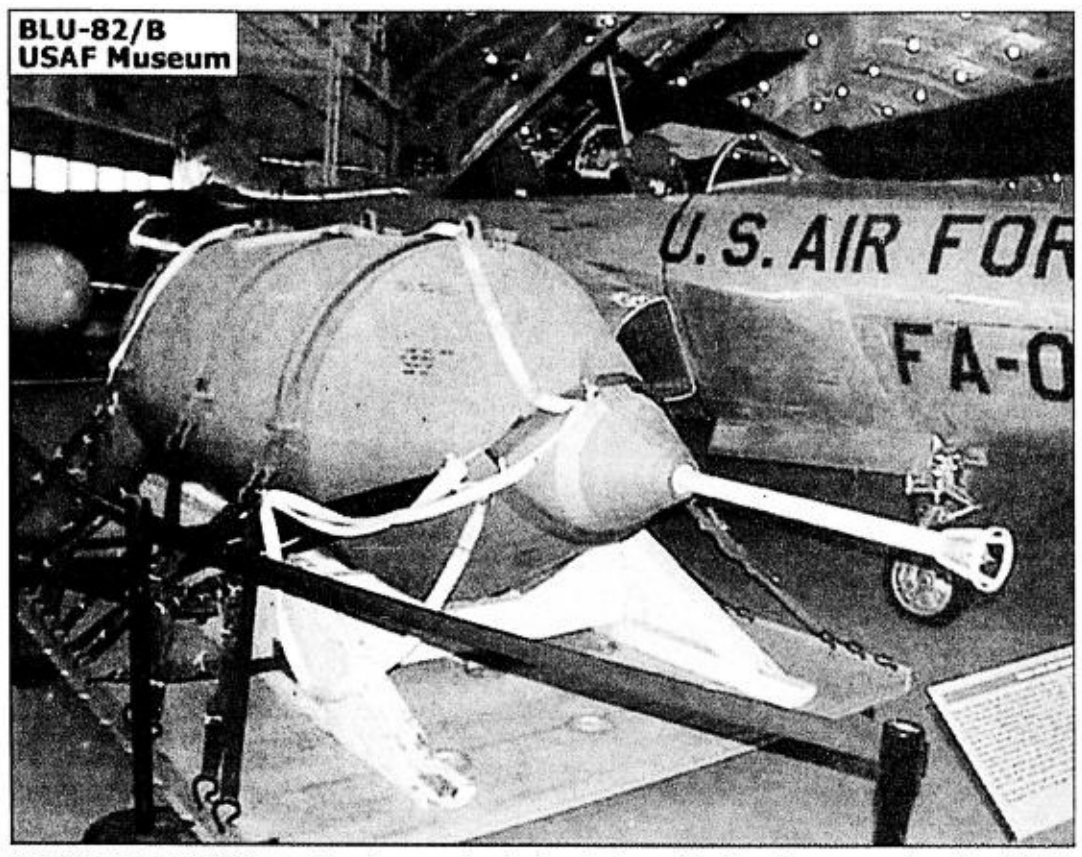
US warplanes pounded the mountainous area before and after dawn, but stopped midmorning to allow tribal warriors to move forward on the ground.

Shelling and heavy machine-gun fire echoed across the valleys as B-52s and US surveillance aircraft circled above. US helicopters were also sighted.

Afghan troops said dozens of heavily armed US soldiers made lightning raids against al-Qaida command centers overnight and returned to a camp at nearby Pacir village before sunrise.

Eastern alliance forces launched a three-pronged assault against al-Qaida defenders on Monday following days of intense US bombing, including 7.5-ton "daisy cutter" bombs used to attack caves and underground command centers.

One mountaintop overlooking Tuesday's battle had been flattened and scorched by one such blast. Trees were reduced to ashes and the ground was littered with shrapnel and pieces of cluster bombs.



"DAISY cutter," a 15,000-pound bomb, was unleashed against one of the Tora Bora caves where the al-Qaida leaders and possibly Bin Laden are believed to be making their last stand. REUTERS

Kandahar

In southern Afghanistan, US Marines stepped up their hunt for fleeing Taliban fighters by widening their operations near the city of Kandahar.

Although US officials have described Tora Bora as Bin Laden's most likely hiding place, they have also said that he and fugitive Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar could be sheltering somewhere around Kandahar.

The Taliban surrendered Kandahar on Friday to tribal forces. Many Taliban fled then, but others might still be hiding there.

US Marines, based in the desert, 110 km southwest of Kandahar, moved closer to the city on Monday to shorten the response time in case US intelligence picks up indications of Taliban and al-Qaida movements.

UN envoy

UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi met Tuesday in Kabul with Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and Defense Minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim "about a smooth transition of power" in Afghanistan, the UN envoy's spokesperson Ahmed Fawzi told journalists.

A meeting was also possible with Hamid Karzai, the Pashtun royalist who will head the six-month interim administration that takes over on Dec. 22 under an agreement reached by anti-Taliban Afghan groups last week in Bonn.

Karzai, who is in Kandahar, said he was planning to go to Kabul soon.

Among the thorniest issues on Brahimi's agenda is the deployment of an international security force in demilitarized Kabul, a key clause of the UN-brokered Bonn accord.

The ethnic Tajik-dominated Northern Alliance, which holds power in Kabul and will hold the key foreign affairs, defense and interior posts in the interim cabinet, insisted Monday that it would not withdraw all its soldiers from the Afghan capital.

It had pledged in the Bonn accord to demilitarize the city before the deployment of UN-mandated peacekeepers.

In the first clear sign of resistance to the proposed force, a top aide to Fahim also said the peacekeepers would not be allowed to patrol Kabul—a task reserved for Afghan security forces.

"The question of security is of paramount importance for the new interim administration," Fawzi said when asked about the disagreement.

"The four groups who were in Bonn, when they signed on to this agreement, made a specific request to the Security Council to consider early deployment of a security force."

Abdullah did not refer to the controversy when he met Brahimi, saying only: "We are all hopeful, optimistic for seeing a lasting peace and settlement for the conflict in Afghanistan."

Karzai's pledge

In an interview Tuesday in the Washington Post, Karzai pledged to root out terrorism in his country and appealed to the United States not to abandon Afghanistan as it did after helping defeat the 1979-1989 Soviet occupation.

"Things went wrong in Afghanistan because the United States walked away," he said. "So don't walk away again."

"We must finish them all, completely burn them out," Karzai said of the al-Qaida.

He also vowed to capture Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and put him on trial.

"Omar has committed crimes, he's killed thousands of people, he's destroyed vineyards, he's butchered my country, he's brought terrorists here . . . I want him tried," Karzai said. *AFP*

Sept. 11: World remembers . . .

(From page A1)

on the 46th minute on the 8th hour of the 11th day. We'll remember where we were and how we felt. We'll remember the dead and what we owe them. We'll remember what we lost and what we found," he said.

"Every death extinguished a world," he added.

At 8:46 a.m. (13:56 GMT), a drum roll echoed in the East Room, a solemn backdrop for "The Star Spangled Banner."

In New York City, firefighters and construction workers stopped work and shut down their heavy machinery to observe a moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. at ground zero.

The program began with Broadway performer William Michael singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

As a light drizzle fell, prayers were offered by Christian, Muslim and Jewish clergy.

"They took down those structures, but they will not take away the spirit," said Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, a fire department chaplain.

"We pray for all the families—the husbands, the wives, the children, the mothers," said John Hiemstra, director of the Council of Churches of New York City. "The geographical, cultural and religious walls that may have divided us have been bridged."

About 150 construction workers, police officers, firefighters gathered for the service, held on the makeshift stage erected at the World Trade Center site. Bagpipers played "Amazing Grace" as the service concluded under gray skies—a sharp contrast to the bright sunny morning of Sept. 11.

At the White House, Bush spoke of America's anger "and our determination to right this huge wrong. Today the wrong is being righted and justice is being done."

Int'l memorials

Events were scheduled in more than 80 countries, the White House said.

The international commemorations were meant in part to remind the world that people from more than 80 countries died in the attacks on the WTC Twin Towers and the Pentagon and the crash in Pennsylvania—and to reinforce Bush's global anti-terror coalition.

Later, Bush was to visit the Citadel, the state military college in Charleston, South Carolina. He was to outline his views on the new demands the war on terrorism is placing on the military and on intelligence gathering, and offer a vision of how the new coalition could change the global landscape.

Sorrow, defiance

Across the world, people united to remember the unforgettable. Along with the enduring sorrow, there was defiance: Life-goes-on means the terrorists are losing, that freedom endures amid grief and adversity.

"I feel a lot of anxiety, but I'm not allowing it to change my everyday life," 27-year-old civil servant Katsuhiro Takahashi said as he shopped in Tokyo's upscale Ginza district.

Eighty countries that lost citizens in the Sept. 11 attacks have answered Bush's call to organize memorials and play their national anthems in tribute to the victims.

In Australia, diplomats gathered at the residence of US Ambassador Tom Schieffer and mourned the deaths by planting a symbol of life: an oak sapling descended from a tree Eleanor Roosevelt planted at the US Embassy in 1943.

A plaque will be placed at the base of the tree: "September 11, 2001, we will remember them."

"This morning's ceremony should be a small reminder to all of us that we continue to focus our minds, that we don't forget those horrific images," said acting Australian Foreign Minister Mark Vaile.

In Tokyo, senior Japanese government officials joined the US Embassy staff at Ambassador Howard Baker's residence to listen to a US Air Force choir give mournful renditions of the American and Japanese national anthems.

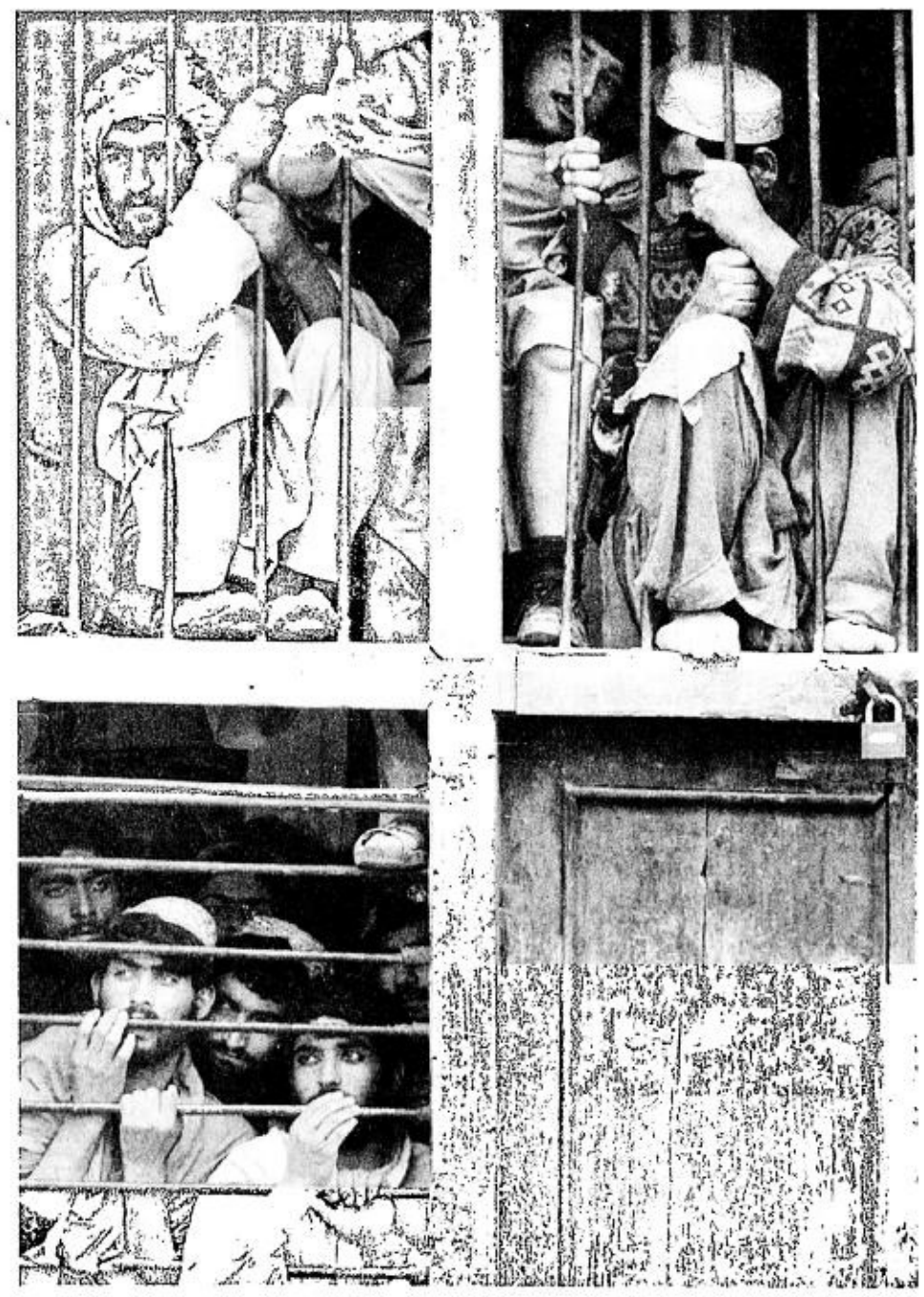
"I, myself, and the people of Japan are together with President George W. Bush and the people of the United States in that we shall never forget the Sept. 11 tragedy," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said in a statement.

The Vatican marked the three months with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Edmund Szoska, an American citizen. Among those expected to attend was the US ambassador to the Holy See, Jim Nicholson.

At the US Embassy in Bangkok, about 300 members of the staff observed a minute of silence in a morning ceremony led by the deputy chief of mission, Ravic Huso. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said he was sending his condolences to President Bush.

In South Korea, there were signs that support for the war on terror was fading.

"I wish the United States will stop the war now that they have clearly won against Afghanistan," said Yoon Sun-jeong, a 30-year-old broadcasting company employee. *AP*



BEHIND bars are Taliban fighters who surrendered to the victorious Northern Alliance. The prisoners have not been sentenced but a third of them are suspected of being members of Bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist group. GETTY IMAGES

Inquirer president named TOYM awardee

(From page A1)

Dorothy Joy Delasin for sports. She's now rated one of the world's top female golfers.

Edgardo J. Martin "Gary" Valenciano, who was awarded for contemporary music, enhanced the Christmas glow at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall with his moving rendition of "Take Me Out of the Dark."

Valenciano is also the first Filipino to become ambassador for the UNICEF.

Former PDI Mindanao Bureau correspondent, Samira Ali-Gutoc, received the award for youth and leadership in social and cultural development. Dressed in a bright red Muslim dress with a matching veil, she delivered the response on behalf of the other awardees. Gutoc paid tribute to non-government youth leaders, the unsung heroes in various fields as she made an appeal to the public and the private sector to work for peace.

"The peace process is not fully within the negotiating table. It is rather a way of life, in praying for the other, in touching the heart of the Other," Ali-Gutoc said.

Other awardees

The other awardees were Roberto Barreiro for public service in broadcast media; Josiah Go for business education; Juan Sajid I. Imao for sculpture; Jaime Montoya for infectious diseases; Leocadio Sebastian for plant breeding and genetics.

President Macapagal, who keynoted the awarding rites, said the awardees" give us positive things to think about, talk about, instead of rumor mongering, gossiping or mud slinging."

TOYM was first awarded in 1959 by the Philippine Jaycees. In 1973, TOYM became a joint project with the Gerry Roxas Foundation. Project sponsors now include the PLDT, Equitable PCI Bank and the TOYM Foundation.

Chair of the board of judges of the 2001 TOYM awards was Justice Josue N. Bellosillo.

Misuari seeking asylum–UNHCR

(From page A1)

a peace agreement in 1996, but has made it clear it no longer backs him after the latest rebellion.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the Philippine government was "very confident" that the UNHCR would not approve Misuari's application for asylum.

"The UN will of course recognize our justice system," he said.

Tiglao said that if the UNHCR formally informed the government of Misuari's application for asylum, the government would point out that Misuari was facing rebellion charges and that a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

Misuari became governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao as part of the peace accord, and mounted the new rebellion last month when it became apparent he could lose the post in new elections.

Tiglao noted that the conditions for granting Misuari asylum as a refugee were not present.

No refugee problem

"There is no refugee problem in the Philippines," Tiglao said, adding that no one deserves a refugee status because there is no real civil war.

He said that should the UNCHR call a hearing, the Department of Foreign Affairs would send "not a team but maybe one representative to explain everything."

President Macapagal-Arroyo has made it clear that it is in no hurry to have the former governor of a Muslim self-rule area back home.

But Malaysia has said it wants to be rid of Misuari as soon as possible, partly because it also fears trouble from Misuari's supporters, and because it does not want to be tainted with any connection to what could be seen as Islamic terrorism.

The Malaysian government said it would not grant Misuari asylum, but suggested for the first time that Misuari could be sent to a third country if the Philippines did not take him back soon.

"It is a possibility that we will discuss thoroughly," Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was quoted as saying by New Straits Times newspaper.

Malaysia had previously said that it would not provide third country passage for Misuari and would deport him to the Philippines.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon warned Malaysia against giving Misuari safe passage to a third country, saying it would be tantamount to giving him asylum.

Biazon, vice chair of the Senate committee on defense, said Misuari should immediately be repatriated to "face charges under the laws of the republic."

Unfriendly act

"Any country that will release him or provide him asylum should be considered committing an unfriendly act toward the government of the Philippines," said Biazon, a former Marine general and armed forces chief.

Tiglao said Malacañang did not foresee Malaysia undertaking any action that would complicate efforts to have Misuari face the charges against him before Philippine courts.

"Malaysia of course is a friendly nation and we have full faith in the Malaysian government to respect our laws," Tiglao said.

The presidential spokesperson clarified that Indonesia did not invite Misuari to attend a meeting of the Committee of the Eight supposedly scheduled for today.

"There is no letter on this matter reportedly sent to Mr. Misuari (last) Dec. 4 by Indonesian Foreign Minister (Dr.) Nur Hassan Wirajuda," Tiglao said.

He said the Indonesian government had taken a position that the leadership conflict in the MNLF was an internal problem of the Philippines.

"All this information was relayed to Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja by Dr. Wirajuda, who in his capacity as Indonesian foreign minister, chairs the OIC Committee of the Eight," Tiglao said.

Tiglao also said that Wirajuda also informed Baja of "his interest in visiting our country to personally brief the President or the Foreign Secretary (Teofisto Guingona) on these matters."

The committee, which is chaired by Indonesia, is the OIC body tasked with overseeing the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the MNLF and the Philippine government.

Its members include Malaysia, Brunei, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Bangladesh and Senegal.

Guingona, also the Vice President, said the Committee of the Eight would no longer meet today because it already had an informal meeting in Doha, Qatar, to discuss issues regarding southern Philippines, including the leadership question of the MNLF.

"They recognized the right of the government to do what was done and in effect upholding the chairmanship (of newly elected ARMM Gov.) Parouk Hussin and of the 15-member council, which earlier unseated Misuari from the MNLF)," he said.

Guingona said the OIC would withdraw the observer status of Misuari.

Wirajuda had reset the meeting of the Committee of the Eight for still unknown reasons.

Sources from the Indonesian Embassy in Manila said they were informed of the cancellation but were not told of the reasons.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER said Indonesia was forced to reset the meeting after it failed to receive a commitment from Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad to allow Misuari to travel.

Randolph Parcasio, an aide for Misuari, said the Moro leader had accepted the invitation for him to attend the meeting.

But Hussin doubted that the OIC deemed Misuari's presence "essential" in the forthcoming meeting.

Parcasio said they were optimistic that Misuari would be able to travel to Jakarta on Dec. 20 "because as representative of the Bangsamoro people, he should be there."

The MNLF still holds an observer status in the 56-member OIC, according to Parcasio.

The meeting was scheduled at the request of Dr. Abdelouabed Belkezis, the OIC secretary general, after receiving at least two communications from Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Guingona in August and September told the OIC that the Philippines had ceased recognizing Misuari as chair of the MNLF.

However, Belkeziz wrote Wirajuda that it was not appropriate for the OIC as a whole to discuss "the questions of Muslims in the southern Philippines" without it having passed through the Committee of the Eight.

"It is appropriate to discuss all developments regarding the question of Muslims in the southern Philippines within the framework of the OIC Ministerial Committee of Eight, which can then submit its report to the forthcoming 29th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for consideration," Belkeziz wrote on Nov. 24.

The 29th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers took place in Doha, Qatar, on Monday. ***Reports from AFP, Carlito Pablo, Norman Bordadora, TJ Burgonio and Blanche Rivera in Manila and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Marcelo 'dummy' of Erap crony, says ex-solon

(From page A1)

before the committee.

Wild goose

For his part, Arroyo told reporters the Senate investigation into the telecommunications franchise scandal had turned into a "wild goose chase," and that he wanted the committee to wrap up its probe before the Christmas recess.

Arroyo said the ongoing Senate probe had become a partisan issue. He is scheduling one last hearing on the issue next week before terminating the investigation.

He pointed out that the original resolution sought to determine whether First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo had received a P40-million bribe from Marcelo. In both his affidavit and his oral testimony, Marcelo denied any bribe had been consummated.

According to Arroyo, the committee had already devoted five hearings and 19 hours to the issue.

"We cannot go on like a wild goose chase. First it was Mike Arroyo, then the President, then who will be the next? Angara?" Arroyo said, referring to opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara.

"I don't like the way it is running. We've one target one day, one target on another day. It's like you're shooting a moving target," he added.

But Angara and Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Arroyo could not unilaterally terminate the investigation since he does not represent the entire committee.

"He is not the committee. He cannot do that," Lacson said.

Angara said such a unilateral decision could not be imposed since a collegial decision must be reached.

"Certainly, no chairman of any Senate committee can just announce a hearing is terminated," Angara said.

"This is a collegial body so I suggest that before he does that, he should convene the committee. For all I know, all the members might support his recommendation," he added.

Angara said that terminating the hearing now would be unfair to the public and to Ms Macapagal because she had not yet officially rebutted Marcelo's claim that she demanded 51 percent of the businessman's company.

Angara also said he was saddened by Arroyo's statement that the committee wasted its time looking into the Marcelo affair.

He said such statements were "prejudicial" to the committee since it showed that it was a "committee of the majority" and not of the whole Senate.

But Sen. Robert Barbers agreed with Arroyo that the hearing should be terminated, since nothing substantial had come off it.

Barbers said that Marcelo's charge against the President could not be proven since there were only two of them in the meeting.

Pangilinan said it was really a case of the President's word against that of Marcelo.

Unfortunately for Marcelo, he said, there was no one to corroborate his charge against the President.

Arroyo also slammed the door on the opposition's demand for the President to testify before the committee or send an official statement.

"We have a Constitution that mandates separation of powers," Arroyo explained.

This was why the Senate could not summon the President or require her to submit an affidavit to answer Marcelo's allegations.

But Arroyo said Ms Macapagal might "voluntarily" submit an affidavit.

Credible witnesses

In the Palace, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao defended two witnesses after opposition senators questioned their credibility on Monday.

Jonathan Ojano and Romulo Retirado, who said they were corporate officers in Marcelo's firms, had admitted under questioning that they had worked for Ms Macapagal when she was still a senator. They also admitted campaigning for the administration's Senate bets in the May elections.

Tiglao did not deny Ojano and Retirado's links to the Palace. He said it was precisely because of their connection to the President that Marcelo took Ojano and Retirado in.

Tiglao said Ojano and Retirado set up Marcelo's meeting with the President in Malacañang last Aug. 16.

"Obviously, Marcelo's business strategy is to get people whom he feels has a connection, even remotely, with Malacañang," he said.

"Quite accurately, those former connections proved of value to him. He asked them to set up the meeting (with the President)," he said at a news briefing.

Tiglao also defended Ojano and Retirado from opposition claims that they could not prove they were Marcelo's business partners.

The two could not produce any proof of employment except for business cards.

But Tiglao said this was not unusual, since they were just starting their business.

"I think anybody in business would realize that kind of argument doesn't wash at all," he said.

"Later on when you have a (business) contract, that's when you sign personnel papers and issue stocks. In the meantime you issue calling cards," he added.

Marcelo has denied having hired Ojano and Retirado. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

Cigarette vendor loses life over 25¢

(From page A1)

He demanded his change; he got stabbed several times instead.

Alexander Buenaventura of 19 Balubad St., Nangka, Marikina City, died while being treated at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center.

Doctors could not save him; he had bled so much due to multiple stab wounds.

His alleged assailant, identified by the police as Juan Federico Estero, 46, fled after the stabbing, bringing with him the knife he supposedly used in the killing.

Witnesses told the police that they saw Estero stab Buenaventura in front of the victim's house shortly after 10 a.m. The two were having a heated argument over Buenaventura's 25-centavo change when Estero suddenly pulled out a knife from his pedicab.

SPO4 Ernesto Rosal, Marikina City police station desk officer, said a hunt for the suspect had been launched.

It was not known why 25 centavos meant a lot to Buenaventura, or why Estero refused to part with it.

Commission on Elections
Continuing registration of voters on-going in the Office of City/ Municipal Election offices Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

THE GREAT HONG KONG SEAT SALE!
As low as $150 until Dec. 15 only!
CEBU PACIFIC
You above all.
For details, call your travel agent or 636-4938.

Ritualo, Noble impress Jacobs

BY JUNE NAVARRO

PBL hotshots Renren Ritualo and Miguel Noble caught national coach Ron Jacobs' attention as amateur players shone on Day 2 of the tryouts for the Asian Games next year.

RITUALO

Ritualo, chief architect of De La Salle's "four-peat" in the UAAP and Welcoat's fiercest shooter, impressed Jacobs with his jumpers from afar that shamed some of the best defensive guys in the pool.

"He shot very well. His inexperience showed but he can shoot that's for sure," said Jacobs of Ritualo, whose knowledge of the amateur rules suits the Busan, South Korea-bound national squad.

Jacobs also noted the admirable performance of the 6-foot-5 Noble, a Fil-American currently playing for Ateneo Pioneer in the PBL.

"These were the two best shooters I've seen in the tryouts and surprisingly, they came from the amateurs," Jacobs said. "But a lot of guys still haven't tried out and I guess I have to consider them too," he added.

Among them are Alaska's Kenneth Duremdes and Ali Peek, Noy Castillo of Purefoods, San Miguel's Danny Ildefonso, Danny Seigle and Olsen Racela.

Also included on Jacobs' wish list are Sta. Lucia Realty's Marlou Aquino, Dennis Espino and Paolo Mendoza, whose long distance shooting could break the dreaded Chinese zone.

Castillo and Duremdes are injured while Ildefonso, Seigle, Racela, Espino, Aquino and Mendoza are in the thick of their PBA Governors Cup Finals' series.

Jacobs invited them to come over on Jan. 7 next year to prove their worth.

Jacobs said other amateur players like Rich Alvarez and Enrico Villanueva of Ateneo, La Salle's Mike Cortez and St. Benilde's Sunday Salvacion also fared well against the professionals.

"They're doing very well. I'm not saying they're gonna make the team but I'm looking at them," he added.

Go leads Luzviminda

THREE respected cockers dominated the pack going to the second round elimination of the 1st Luzviminda Slasher Cup 6-Cock Derby today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

With three-point each are William Go with his entry Gold Cup sa Texas, P. Chua/Danny Ty with ASF/JPC-Showdown, and Abba with his Dragon X-696. Mon Dulo Nicua with his Lloyd John registered 2.5 points to occupy second place.

For inquiries call Tiling, Fred and Rezel at Roligon Mega Cockpit at 833-22-75 or 833-16-38.

TGA to hold W'Wack tilt

JUNGOLFERS will pit their talents against their elders in The Golf Authority Jungolfers Club tournament on Dec. 14 at Wack Wack West.

The 18-hole event has drawn 144 players, with Autotrend staking an Italian motorbike. Wilson and Mizuno are donating golf sets for hole-in-one feats.

Proceeds of the fund-raiser will be used to train young female talents. The Kababaihang Kakaiba ng Mandaluyong will also benefit from the tourney.

Bingo Bonanza is the presenter while Herma Group, SGV, Splash Manufacturing, Mandaue Realty, Lee Designs and Alcatel Phils. are major sponsors.

Hole sponsors are 457 Boracay, Bello Medical Group, Comworks, FGL Hotdog on Stick, PLDT, Smart, Long Stem Flowers, Maxima Equipment, MIT Air, Mitsubishi, Nikel Steel, Nestle, Roland Ramos, Premier Production, M-Zet TV Productions, Philtrust Bank and Excellasia Home Furnishing.

Andrew Pineda, chair and president of the club, said that the TGA Jungolfers Club is being envisioned to provide the additional boost to the efforts already being made by golf organizations to improve the quality of play of female jungolfers.

WORLD CHAMPION

Defending FIDE world champion Viswanathan Anand of India ponders his next move during Game Two of his semifinal FIDE world championship match against Ukraine's Vassily Ivanchuk in Moscow, Monday. The game ended in a draw.

Gold Cup unfolds Sunday

THE 2001 edition of the PCSO Presidential Gold Cup unfolds at the Sta. Ana oval on Sunday, Dec. 16 in what is expected to be another down-the-wire contest of brute strength and endurance that will thrill the sport's legion of racing fans.

Vice Chair and General Manager Virgilio T. Angelo of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in whose honor the classic event is being held, has been invited as Guest of Honor to award the prestigious gold cup to the owner of the champion horse.

As in its previous stagings, the PCSO has again taken on the task of supporting the annual event as its principal sponsor.

"More than motivating the horse breeding industry and the horse racing sport into further striving for excellence, the Presidential Gold Cup will help the PCSO fulfill its mandate of caring and sharing. This is not just an obligation imposed by law, it is also a moral imperative that has become imbedded in the consciousness of the people in the PCSO," Angelo said as he appealed to the racing fans to once more extend their support to the undertaking.

Eleven select entries from the country's elite stables will compete for the top prize of P1.5 million, with last year's winner, Wind Blown, trying to duplicate the back-to-back triumphs that only three other horses have registered in the past 28 staging of this classic event. The three horses which scored the unique feat were Fair And Square in 1981-82, Sun Dancer in 1989-90 and Bulldozer in 1996-97.

Considered as the richest single contest in the year-long horse racing calendar, the Presidential Gold Cup is also allocating half a million pesos for the second finisher, P250,000 for the third placer and P125,000 for fourth. Total pot for this year is P2.375 million.

Winning Time, R&B bets shine

BANKING on superbly conditioned fighting cocks, Winning Time DVH and R&B Farm I towed two other entries into the finals tonight by scoring three straight wins yesterday at the opening leg of the National Cockers Association 7-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

Winning Time was entered by popular lawyer and newest member of the NCA Central Council Rudy Salud and his longtime partner Lito Orillioza while R&B Farm I was fielded by veteran Boy Boy Roa and Rep. Claude Bautista, also a new member of the NCA council. Likewise sweeping their matches in the elimination round were RT 114-Mapalad II of brothers Alex and Gerry Escalona and Geran-JJM of reigning Cocker of the Year Gerry Fevidal and Jung Jung Morales. The season-opening cock derby is being hosted by the Firefly Group and lawyer Ram Lopez.

Taking solo second place with 2.5 points was Hacienda Enara of battle-tested Iking Araneta. With two points each were 11 other entries, among them Thunderbird-Firefly II of Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Binangonan SMV and Binangonan MK of Gov. Ito Ynares and Manny Jho and Ynares, respectively.

SPORTSWATCH

Manzano age-group

DEADLINE of registration for the fourth Armando Manzano Age Group Tennis Championships will end at 12 noon on Dec. 13. The draw will follow at 2 p.m. The country's leading juniors are competing in the tournament slated Dec. 15-17 and 21-22 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions. Players may register with Loida Mallare at the Philta office (tel. 525-6434). Entry fee is P200.

Tennis induction

GAMES and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva will induct the newly elected officers of the Men's Professional Tennis Council of the Philippines on Dec. 15 at the Philippine Columbian Association clubhouse in Plaza Dilao, Paco. To be sworn into office are Adelo Abadia, president; Johnny Arcilla, vice president; Roland Kraut, secretary; Karl Santamaria, treasurer; Pop Sabandon, auditor and Michael Mora III and Joseph Victorino, trustees.

Pinseekers winners

BUSINESSMAN San Poblete fired an 8-over par 80 to bag the overall championship of the Pinseekers annual Christmas golf tournament at the Capitol Hills course in Quezon City recently. Poblete had nines of 40-40 to post the lowest gross in the 40-man field. Other winners were: Class A - Dave Adeva, champion; Cezar Detera, runner-up. Class B - Lawyer Jun Bohol, champion; Rolly Aguncio, runner-up. Class C- Ching Pascual, champion; Al Hequival, runner-up. Ladies - Sonia Celis, champion; Angie Perez, runner-up. Meanwhile, Marvin Perez was unanimously elected president of the Pinseekers for 2002. Others elected were Greg Pacifico, vice-president; Johnson Chang, secretary; and Aquino, Bohol and Hequival, board of directors.

Hocus-pocus in cycling

(OOPS. The correct word in my previous column (Best Center goes to Ilocos Sur) should have been "constituents" instead of "conscience" while the paragraph (on Haydee's lament) should have read; former swimming champion Haydee Coloso-Espino, "who won" (not "also were") a total of 10 medals in the Asian Games, is blaming the government for the long delay in releasing the cash incentives for past achievers like her).

ONE compelling reason why the Philippines is now a wash-out in the Asian sports arena is because many sports leaders are always fighting and do not have genuine care and concern for their athletes.

Take cycling for example. Aside from having two sets of officers, one headed by Danao Mayor Ramonito Durano and the other by Ponciano Regalado Jr., I also gathered that members of the Philippine track and road race teams did not receive their full allowance, including that for board and lodging, for the recent 21st Asian Cycling Championships held in Taichung and Kaoshung, Taiwan, last July 7-16. The amount of some P413,304 in allowances, according to disgruntled cyclists, went missing, leading them to ask: where did the money go? As a result, they have filed a complaint before the Philippine Olympic Committee against Regalado, president of the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association, the group which is recognized by the POC headed by Celso Dayrit.

In the case of the long-drawn leadership crisis in cycling, the last POC general assembly failed miserably to resolve the dispute between the camps of Durano and Regalado, leaving a vacuum in the association. The assembly also failed to answer valid questions particularly the POC's certification issued by secretary general Romeo Ribaño to the International Cycling Federation (UCI) recognizing Regalado as the "duly elected president of the Paca." In his certification, Ribano also said, the Regalado group enjoys the support of the majority of the cyclists, coaches and trainers registered as members of the national cycling pool (except for the Mountain bike team) receiving allowances from the Philippine Sports Commission, as well as most of the organized cycling clubs in the country. Ribano added that "in the spirit of sportsmanship, Mr. Regalado has offered Mayor Durano the chairmanship of Paca, and which Mayor Durano accepted and conveyed to POC Arbitration Commission Chairman Claudio Altura."

In reaction, Durano protested the POC statement, denouncing it is a "blatant lie." He said, "I never agreed to become chairman of the Paca in exchange for letting Mr. Regalado assume its presidency. Paca already has a chairman in the person of Mr. Roberto Almeda." The Danao mayor said the claim that "most of the organized cycling clubs in the country support Regalado's group is unsupported and inaccurate at best," stressing that, "One only needs to inspect the composition of my board to determine who truly represents the geographical and disciplinary breadth and depth of Philippine cycling." Durano also said, "I am disappointed that the POC's reputation for doublespeak and impropriety has been validated by its latest actions. Let it be known that I intend to exercise every avenue and forum to assert the legitimacy of our office."

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

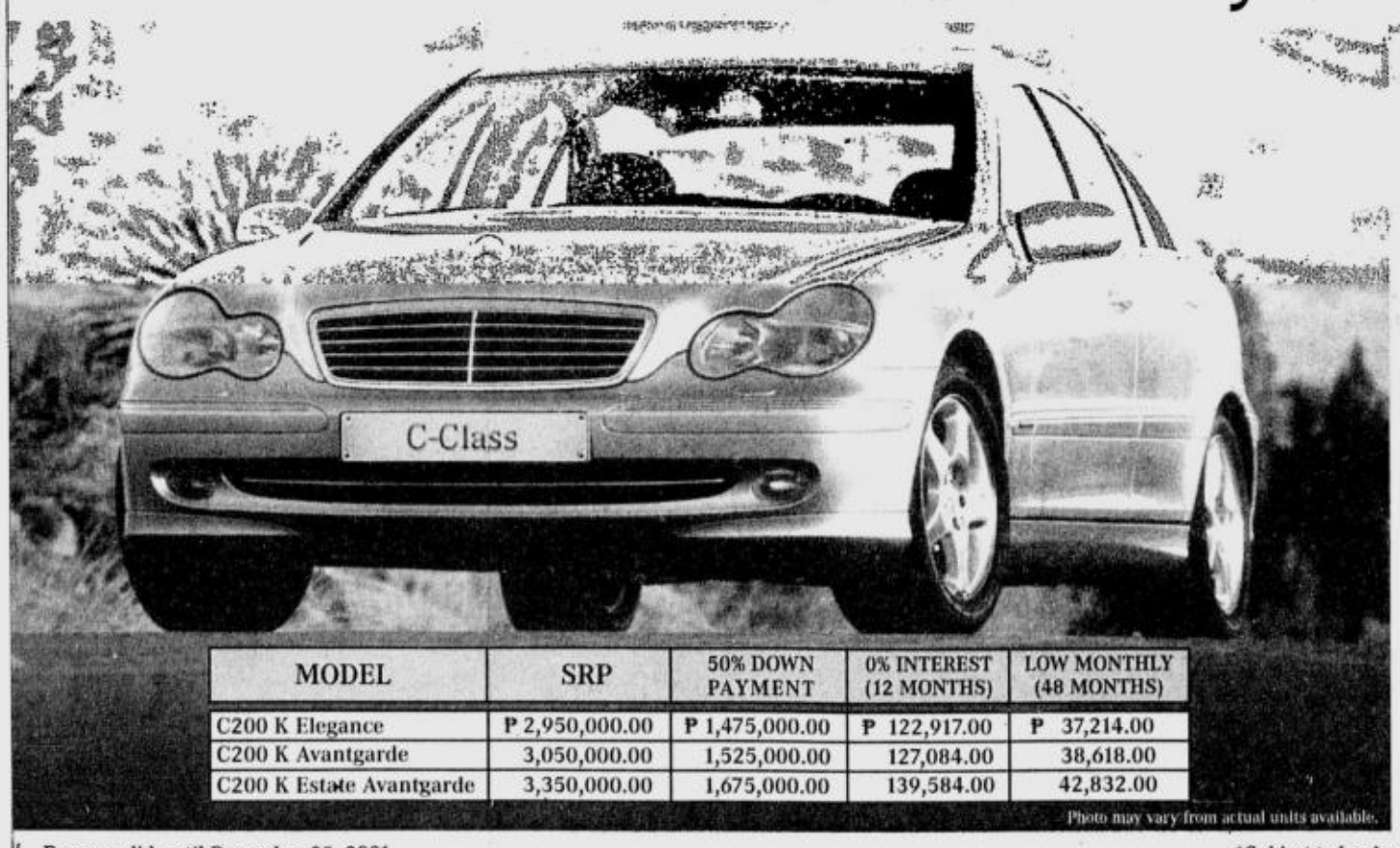
RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Sexy Royal 2. Fair Ringer 3. Black Force
Race 2—1. James Joy 2. Red Bells 3. El Condor
Race 3—1. Silver Eagle 2. Bardagul 3. Easy Win 4. The Mailman
Race 4—1. Slew's Pleasure 2. Uzisaki 3. Precious Moment 4. Rose in Bloom
Race 5—1. Senor Raggaas 2. High and Mighty 3. Powerhouse 4. Runaway Bride
Race 6—1. Hasty 2. Replica 3. Boiling Point 4. Mr. Dignity 5. Bullish View
Race 7—1. Bull Dancing 2. Kitty Bang Bang 3. Traktora 4. Southern Skies/Native Talent 5. Ableskiver
Race 8—1. Like A Prince 2. Shuttle's Magic 3. Time Essential 4. Come In Glory 5. Nevada Dancer

"Mercedes-Benz is a trademark of DaimlerChrysler".

This star is now within your reach.



MODEL	SRP	50% DOWN PAYMENT	0% INTEREST (12 MONTHS)	LOW MONTHLY (48 MONTHS)
C200 K Elegance	₱ 2,950,000.00	₱ 1,475,000.00	₱ 122,917.00	₱ 37,214.00
C200 K Avantgarde	3,050,000.00	1,525,000.00	127,084.00	38,618.00
C200 K Estate Avantgarde	3,350,000.00	1,675,000.00	139,584.00	42,832.00

Photo may vary from actual units available.

0 % Interest or Low Monthly Payments*

▸ For a 50% down payment, payable within 12 or 48 months, you can now avail of this special limited offer and enjoy 0 % interest or low monthly payments. We also offer other finance packages to suit your needs and requirements. Hurry! Visit our showroom today or call our sales office for further details.

Promo valid until December 30, 2001

*Subject to bank approval. Prices vary as to models and specs.

CATS www.cats.com.ph

7235808

Mercedes-Benz
The future of the automobile

CATS MOTORS, INC. 1008 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, Philippines • Fax no: (632) 7267741 • E-mail : mercedesbenz@cats.com.ph

Full factory warranty from Commercial Motors Corporation

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-806 Series of 2001

Tiger No. 1 again

LONDON—Tiger Woods ended the year at No. 1 in the world golf ranking for the fourth consecutive season, while John Daly improved 456 spots to No. 51 - one place short of earning an invitation to the Masters.

Woods, who won six PGA tournaments this year, including The Masters and the PGA Grand Slam of Golf, had a substantial lead over Phil Mickelson, and likely will remain No. 1 through at least the first half of next year.

Woods finished the season with 15.67 points, while Mickelson collected 9.16 points. The ranking is computed on a two-year rolling basis. Players earn points based on finish and strength of field.

Colin Montgomerie of Scotland, Lee Westwood of England and Americans Hal Sutton and Tom Lehman all fell out of the top 10 this year, replaced by Spain's Sergio Garcia, PGA champion David Toms, U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen of South Africa and Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland.

Daly was as high as No. 47 two weeks ago, but slipped four spots. The top 50 in the world ranking Monday were invited to the Masters. Daly can still get to Augusta if he is ranked in the top 50 on March 11. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Pirates, Archers advance

GROUP B leaders Lyceum and De La Salle-Manila moved a win shy of quarterfinal berths while Polytechnic University of the Philippines picked up its fourth victory through forfeiture over Olivarez College in the NCRAA basketball tournament Monday at the Lyceum gym. The Pirates beat Emilio Aguinaldo College, 73-66, while the Green Archers nipped St. Benedict College, 76-52, for similar 5-0 slates in this tournament supported by Pagcor, Mikasa, Splash, Pepsi-Cola and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA - Philadelphia 76ers vs Atlanta Hawks at 9 a.m. (r – 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA - Iowa State vs Boston College at 1 p.m., Connecticut vs Massachusetts at midnight on ESPN

GOLF: Holden Australian Open Golf Championship, Day Three at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

U.S. Open Golf Championship, Final Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

This is the PGA Tour at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Stuttgart) Highlights at 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

ICE SKATING: Skate America International 2001, Highlights #3 at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

SWIMMING: World Cup Swimming Highlights at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

STA. LUCIA 2-1 UP

SMB aims to knot series

GAME TODAY (Philsports)
7p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel Beer

Game 1—Sta. Lucia d. San Miguel, 86-80
Game 2—San Miguel d. Sta. Lucia, 86-78
Game 3—Sta. Lucia d. San Miguel, 83-74

By JUNE NAVARRO

NOTHING could be more satisfying for Sta. Lucia Realty at this stage than to score a third win against defending champion San Miguel Beer in their best-of-seven PBA Governors Cup Final series.

With the Realtors ending up victorious in Game 3 for a 2-1 advantage, another triumph tonight at 7 will move them a game away from notching their first-ever title in over nine years.

"In my experience on coaching in championship series, you don't get excited until you win a third game because you only have to win one more to bring home the championship," said Sta. Lucia coach Norman Black, who is seeking his 10th title in 14 Finals appearances.

"You should put all your focus on that one game, use all the motivational techniques that you have in your bag and try to win that last game," he added.

But to do that, the Realtors should duplicate their fiery form last Sunday and summon the same support Damien Owens got from the locals.

Donbel Belano masterfully executed the Realtors' offensive patterns, while Gerard Francisco shone at the defensive end against the Beermen's taller frontliners.

Their courageous efforts, combined with the heads-up play of Owens, made life difficult for the Beermen, who fared poorly from the perimeter.

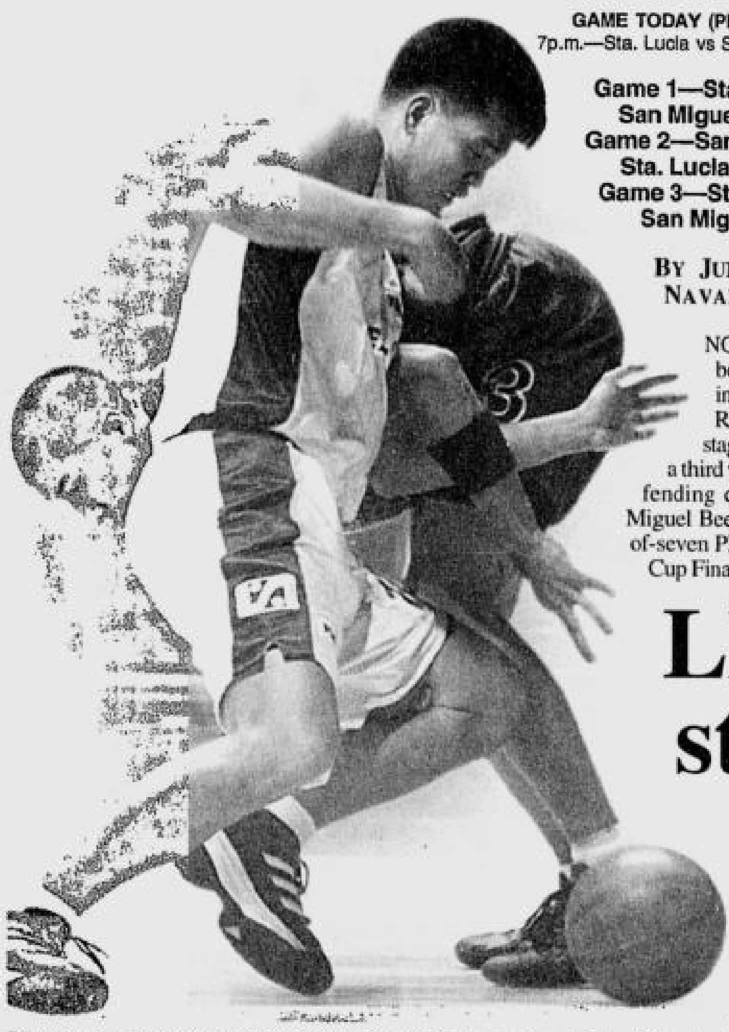
The Beermen, who are aiming for a 17th title overall, leaned more on Lamont Strothers and Danny Seigle in the endgame as they failed to solve the Realtors' puzzle at running the breaks.

"I expect the same intensity in Game 4 so it's not yet the time to relax because I'm sure they'll bounce back," said Black.

"But for me, the important thing is to win this one. I think the message will be sent if we get the third win," he added.

The Realtors beat the Beermen in Game 1, 86-80, but San Miguel levelled the series with a methodical 86-78 win in Game 2.

During their Commissioner's Cup Finals last year, the Beermen allowed the Realtors to win only once before finishing the series in Game 5.



STA. Lucia Realty's Dennis Espino (in white jerseys) and San Miguel Beer's Nic Belasco jockey for position as they go for the loose ball in Game 3 of their best-of-seven series on Sunday. The Realtors won, 83-74, to grab a 2-1 lead. JOAN BONDOC

LBC Batangas, Negros start title series today

GAME TODAY (St. La Salle Lipa)
5 p.m.—Negros vs LBC Batangas

By ROY LUARCA

BOTH teams love to run and gun. They are also sharp on offense and tough on defense.

The opener of the MBA national finals between the LBC Batangas Blades and the Negros Slashers promises to be a thriller.

LBC Batangas and Negros clash at 5 p.m. at the St. La Salle Lipa Sentrum in Lipa City with neither team enjoying a decisive edge.

The Blades topped the Northern Conference while the Slashers ruled the Southern Conference to forge the best-of-five showdown.

Because they emerged as the elimination round topnotchers, the Blades will enjoy the homecourt edge under the 2-2-1 format.

If their past two games in the eliminations were to be the basis, then the series could go either way. LBC Batangas won over Negros, 82-68, on Nov. 4 in Lipa, while Negros exacted revenge in Bacolod City, 93-71, on Nov. 18.

With their 3-1 victory over the Andok's San Juan Knights in the North conference finals, the Blades have the luxury of a week-long rest.

The Slashers were extended to Game Five before besting the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 3-2, in the South Conference finals.

Both the Blades and the Slashers are seeking their first national title with the Slashers failing in their first two attempts.

LBC Batangas coach Nash Racela will again bank on last year's MVP Romel Adducul, Alex Compton and Eddie Laure, with support coming from Jeffrey Sanders, Tonyboy Espinosa, Ralph Rivera and Peter Martin.

The Slashers of coach Robert Sison are deemed to have the deeper roster with John Ferriols at the helm. Other Negros reliables are Cid White, Johnedel Cardel, Reynel Hugnatan, Leo Bat-og, Ruben dela Rosa and Dennis Madrid.

The game will be telecast live over National Broadcasting Network Channel 4.

Kutitap beats Shark anew

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Montaña vs ICTSI-Archers
5:30 p.m.—Blu Detergent vs Ateneo-Pioneer

By DENNIS U. EROA

KUTITAP Toothpaste continued to impose its mastery over Shark Energy Drink, escaping with a 63-59 triumph last night in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

By beating the league's hottest team for the second straight time, the Sparklers climbed to 4-5 and rekindled their hopes of advancing to the next round of this eight-team field.

"I prayed hard this morning. I sought God's help to give me the wisdom to so something right against the pacesetter," said Kutitap mentor Koy Banal. "I use Shark's five-game winning streak as a motivation."

In the second game, Welcoat Paints drubbed Ana Freezers, 82-69, for its fifth win in nine games. Ana Freezers fell to 3-6.

Shark, which is trying to win its second Challenge Cup title, remains on top of the heap with a 6-3 win-loss card. It also lost to Kutitap, 77-66, in the first round of eliminations.

KUTITAP 63—Saquilayan 13, Mercado 9, Bajar 8, Baguio 8, Salangsang 8, Espiritu 6, Gelig 5, Gonzalez 3, Sison 2, Rivera 1, Dy 0, Yuson 0.

SHARK 59—Malabanan 14, Junio 13, Tolomia 8, Robinson 6, Ybañez 5, Castro 5, Ortega 4, Basilides 2, Rodriguez 2, Cole 0, Sotto 0, Balares 0.

Quarters: 12-17, 28-30, 47-45, 63-59.

NBA RESULTS
Jazz 107, Mavericks 98; Clippers 100, Magic 92

WAZZZZUP ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Cowboy Grill, Brgy. Almanza, Las Piñas	SERSIDE ICE KENDI	☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill, 1190 Arquiza St., Malate	HOMOSAPIENS KNIGHTS/BARRICADE	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill, 481 Remedios St., Malate	GOALKEYS FREEZE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill, Novaliches Q.C.	PARTY-Z-POLE ZYNAXIS/HIMIG	☎ 936.9757
Friends @ the square	KAKTOOZ	☎ 635.0279
Music Warehouse	EMERGE NEW LEVEL	BARBIES CRADLE DEC. 14 735.1405/735.1280
Tia Maria's, Remedios cor. Carolina	BOYZTOWN MYX JAM	☎ 890.4735
Tropical Forest	TRAFFIC JAM	FREE FOOD ON 500 PURCHASE ☎ 400.7438/39
OUTSIDE METRO MANILA		
Cowboy Grill, Binan, Laguna	PHYRIGIAN IMPROM 2/BROWNIE	☎ (049)511.7268
The Summit	THE COMPANY DEC. 14, 2001	EARTHRISE DEC. 1-14 ☎ (082)-2258888

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12 912-8983

Mobile. Secure.

That's

SMART – Security Bank MobileBanker

Get easy, worry-free, wireless banking that you can take anywhere with Security MobileBanker, powered by SMART. Now you can conduct balance inquiries, fund transfers, bills payments, over-the-air SMART Money reloading, checkbook and statement requests, mobile PIN changes and more, all via text on your celfone. Anytime, anywhere banking convenience that's safe and secure is now available to all SMART subscribers and Security Bank depositors. So apply for your Security MobileBanker now for real needs, real answers in real time. For more info, call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111.

SECURITY MOBILEBANKER

SECURITY BANK
Real Needs. Real Answers. Real Time.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Cinco slay suspect arraigned Friday

A MANILA regional trial court has set for Friday the arraignment of the suspected triggerman in the slaying of elections official Velma Cinco last month. Judge Reynaldo Alhambra of the Manila RTC Branch 53 noted the filing by the prosecutors of an information of Murder and Frustrated Murder against Conrado Robles. He also noted that "it appeared from the documentary evidence that the crime charged has been committed and that the accused is probably guilty thereof." The judge also ordered the transfer of Robles from the National Bureau of Investigation detention center to the Manila City Jail. *Jerome Aning*

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Register your Web Address in 5 minutes!
www.dot.PH
The Official Domain Registry of the Philippines

Anti-crime groups reject 'Dirty Harry'

BY JEROME ANING

AN anti-crime group and a lawyers' organization yesterday expressed opposition to the reported plan by the President to appoint former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim to the government's anti-kidnapping task force.

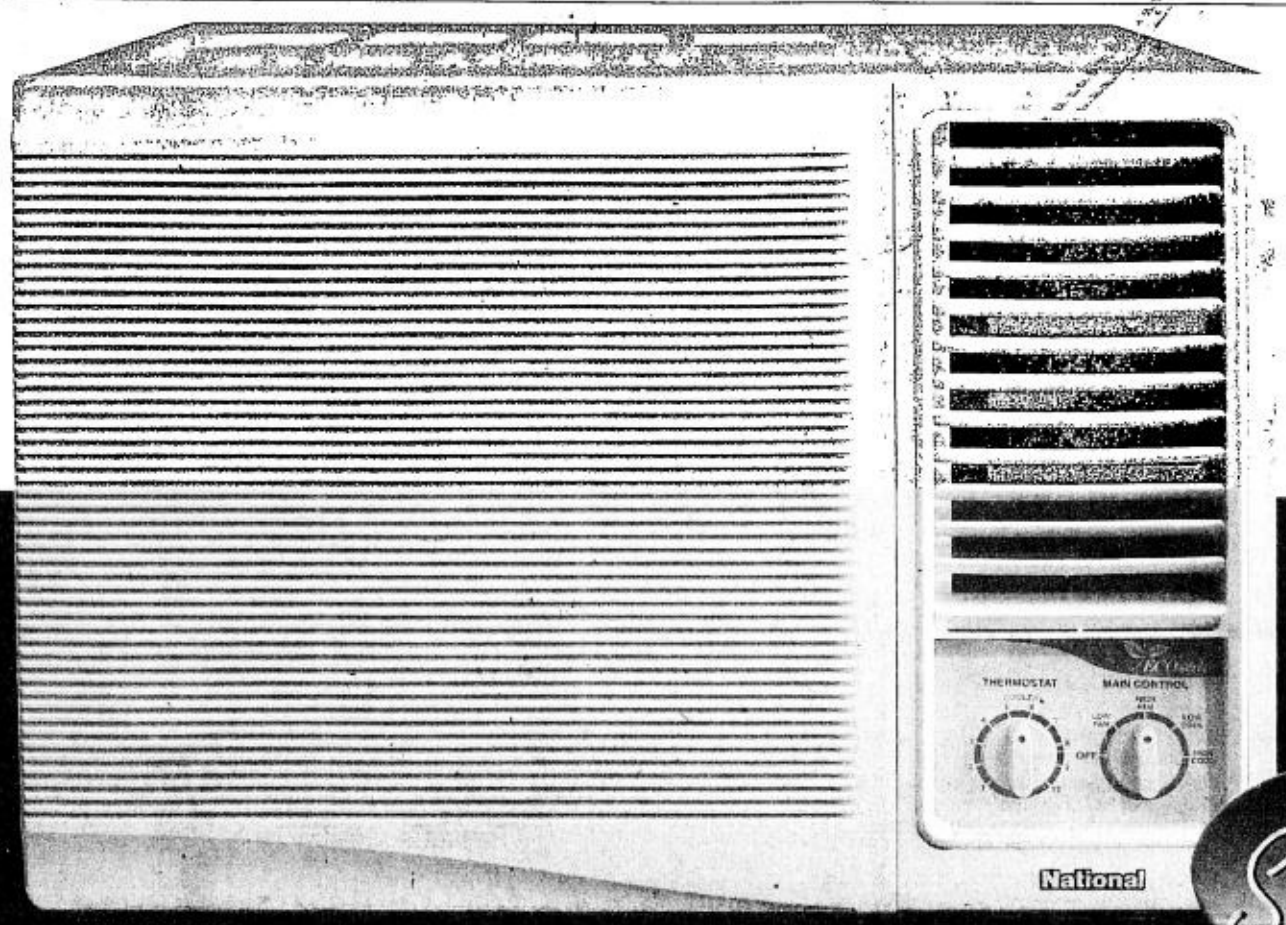
The Equal Justice for All Movement and the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) said Lim's controversial "spray-painting" campaign against suspected drug pushers, his association with former President Estrada and failure to implicate Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the illegal drug trade are among the reasons why the former Manila mayor should not be appointed to the government again.

"There are other more deserving Filipinos to the position," E-Just spokesperson Leonardo de Vera, together with VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez, claimed.

ANTI-CRIME/A27

50% OFF ON ALL SKIN TREATMENTS
ENJOY BIG SAVINGS
UNLIMITED LIFETIME TREATMENTS PACKAGE
Now Available!
FOR SCAR & SKIN WHITENING
Dark Spots & Pigmentation
Acne/Pimples & Marks
Post Pregnancy Marks
Skin Whitening & Peeling
Open Strictures
Hairy Acne Treatment
Rosacea & French Technique Facial
CARLO MUNOZ
Actor/Commercial Model
derm'e total'le
Paris, France
Skin and Body Care Center
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DETAILS OF THE SERVICES PLEASE CALL:
Makati City
12 D Century Plaza Cond., Perea St., Legaspi Village
812-7904/812-8044
Quezon City
Suite 315 Pasda Mansion, Panay Ave., cor Timog Ave.
373-0614

New!
ECOseries



CW-SC71APH

Silent

Only the premium brand can give you a best-value cool.

Introducing, the new **National ECOseries Air Conditioner**.
The best combination of leading National aircon features at an affordable price.

Super silent, high cooling power gives you excellent comfort you deserve.
With high Energy Efficient Ratio (EER), for more economic use.

The new **National ECOseries Air Conditioner**.
National cool at a practical price.

**** Available in 3/4, 1.0 and 1.5 HP*
Every National Air Conditioner comes with a 5-year warranty on compressor, evaporator, condenser, capillary tube and 1-year warranty on other parts.

Go ahead. Feel the Life. You deserve a **National**.

Feel The Life

Register via the new National Aircon Call Center
718 - 2918 - For Metro Manila National users 1-800-10-CALLCTR (1-800-10-2255-287) - For non-Metro Manila National users
Upon purchase, simply call in your National Aircon's model type, serial number and date of purchase.
Then you are instantly entitled to **1 year FREE** quarterly cleaning and check-up.

Better Living, Better Environment.

National

www.mepco.panasonic.com.ph

Vote urged on Rodriguez landfill

BY NELSON F. FLORES

RESIDENTS of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal have asked the local government to hold a plebiscite to decide whether to open a sanitary landfill in town to accommodate Metro Manila's garbage.

The Rodriguez municipal government yesterday announced that the proposed dumpsite in Sitio Lukutang Malaki in Barangay San Isidro is ready for operation.

Lito San Jose, former Rodriguez vice mayor and organizer of the People's Initiative para sa Reporma Laban sa Basura, presented a petition signed by 1,600 people to the municipal council.

He said the petition seeks the holding of a plebiscite as soon as possible to determine whether Rodriguez residents want to have a landfill in their town.

The Municipality of Rodriguez has 63,000 registered voters.

San Jose said Cuerpo and his political allies in the municipal council ignored all opposition to the setting up of a sanitary Landfill despite mounting public protest. He said the administration dominated the municipal council which agreed to allow the MMDA to operate a sanitary landfill in the town.

"Only three out of 10 councilors voted against the landfill," he said.

San Jose said after Cuerpo pushed the plan to set up a landfill in their town without consulting the people, he decided to organize the People's Initiative pursuant to Sections 120 to 127 of the Local Government Code. He said the initiative is the last legal remedy of the people to resolve the problem.

Under the law, San Jose explained, the people can ask their respective local governments to hold a plebiscite to determine an issue that affects their communities.

"We have 1,600 signatories to our petition, more than enough to force the municipal council of Rodriguez to enact an ordinance that would call for a plebiscite," San Jose said.

He said local residents should be asked whether they want Metro Manila's waste in their town. He added the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's record in managing landfills, as exemplified by the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill, is dismal.

Carmelo Sta. Isabel, Rodriguez municipal vice mayor and a political opponent of Cuerpo, said he will support the petition. He expressed confidence that a plebiscite will be held soon despite the absence of a majority in the municipal council.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Cuerpo for comment.

But in an earlier statement, Cuerpo said the sanitary landfill is ready and the devoted road leading to it is also nearing completion.

"So we can assume that before Christmas, Metro cities and municipalities hounded by problems as to where to dump their garbage have now a solution or alternative through the Lukutang Malaki sanitary landfill," Cuerpo said.

Cuerpo, an engineer by profession, also stressed that Rodriguez residents have nothing to worry because every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of the environment. He added they even hired experts from the Philippine Society of Sanitary Engineers to construct the landfill.

Cuerpo said the landfill is different from an open dump because the former requires certain structures like a huge concrete catch basin for trash leakage, and a processor where chemicals like methane alcohol will be treated.

Cuerpo said the landfill is also a segregation plant for plastics, metals, paper, glass, rubber and other recyclable materials and that only total waste materials will be buried in the sanitary landfill.

MMDA Chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr. said there is a concerted effort to sabotage plans to construct a new sanitary landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal.

A frustrated Abalos believed that proponents of other methods of waste disposal are behind the disinformation campaign.

He said the proposed landfill site is 20 kilometers away from the town proper and far from a river or waterway, hence it poses no danger to people and the environment contrary to the claims made by the landfill opponents.

But Abalos also noted that about 30 percent of Metro Manila's total daily waste output of 6,000 metric tons will be dumped in Rodriguez.

"Only the waste that cannot be recycled, or composted by MMDA recycling and comporting plants will be dumped in the landfill," he said.

Abalos reiterated that the Rodriguez Sanitary Landfill will not be like the Payatas or the Smokey Mountain open dumpsites in Quezon City and Tondo, Manila. He said RSL is safe as it complies with international standards on safety and sanitation.

Abalos said the landfill operation will be closely monitored to ensure that dumpsite supervisors comply with all sanitary requisites, stressing that all conditions imposed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will be met.

Abalos also clarified that it was not the MMDA that sought the opening of the Rodriguez dumpsite as he expressed willingness to meet with the town residents and engage them in a dialogue to better explain the MMDA position.

Abalos said Rodriguez Mayor Cuerpo volunteered portions of barangay San Isidro in a bid to develop the entire town, which has remained one of the poorest in Rizal province.

Abalos said the only conditions Cuerpo sought are the complete closure of the Payatas open dumpsite and the construction of a highway to facilitate the growth Rodriguez.

The INQUIRER learned that the Quezon City government still uses portions of the open dumpsite despite the 1999 Payatas landslide where hundreds were killed.

Threesome sex too expensive for US tourist

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A 45-YEAR-OLD American tourist lost more than $2,000 after an alleged gay and a woman offered him "threesome sex" in Ermita, Manila on Monday night.

The victim nabbed the suspects when he saw them again yesterday morning.

It was too late. The money was already gone.

John Walter Pennel II, of Room 407 Palm Plaza Hotel Manila, told investigators he lost $2,375 to suspects Ruben B. Bautista, 27, of 126 Magunhawa St. Pasay and Joy O. Gonzaga, 27.

The suspects denied they were the ones who duped the American.

Pennel said he was walking along the corner of M.H. Del Pilar and Soldado streets in Manila around 10 p.m. Monday when he encountered the suspects.

Bautista allegedly approached him [and], for P200, offered [to h]ave "threesome [sex"] with Pennel. The [suspe]ct allegedly made [the off]er while pointing to [Gonza]ga, who was standing nearby.

But the American tourist claimed he refused since his girlfriend was sleeping in his hotel room.

Gonzaga then approached Pennel and tried to seduce him. Pennel claimed she began fondling his chest.

But while trying to seduce the victim, Gonzaga suddenly snatched Pennel's money, which was kept inside a pouch.

The two suspects then quickly escaped toward an unknown direction, leaving behind the bewildered victim.

Asking questions on RP basketball, boxing

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

SO it was all a big joke. The reported coming of Allan Caidic to the RP basketball team tryouts on Monday did not materialize.

Unlike Michael Jordan, Caidic, the sharpest shooter to be named to the national team in the past two decades, has succeeded in keeping his old jersey permanently retired.

There was no Caidic to shoot triples and rip the nets at the Moro Lorenzo Complex inside the Ateneo compound in Loyola, QC.

That should provide instant relief to pretenders out to claim Caidic's coveted crown.

But don't tell that to our national basketball team coach.

No one among the aspirants could hold a candle to Caidic.

But Sir Allan's absence was not the only problem Ron Jacobs had to grapple with. The bigger mess—and this one needs instant solution—was the reality that nobody among those who initially tried out appeared readily suited for the big job.

Nobody was doing what should be done, Jacobs was overheard as groaning, practically everybody was trying to penetrate.

To put it harshly, most of the aspirants, although promptly ordered to keep their pride in check, held on to the ball went on ego trips.

It was not the right thing to do in international amateur tournaments, the ball must move around.

The esteemed RP team coach, holder of a clean record against mighty China, has one consolation. He has nine months to mold his prospective team into a winner.

A bigger question: Is there enough time to truly change the lazy, sickening styles of our pampered, overpaid pros?

* * *

It was all a big waste of time and stationery?

Two-time world boxing champion Luisito Espinosa had written Don Jose Sulaiman in a bid to bring an unfinished fight to the recent World Boxing Council convention in Pattaya, Thailand.

The letter, protesting the failure of promoters and the championship supervisor to pay his $150,000 purse for a title bout staged in Koronadal, South Cotabato four years ago, was properly delivered.

But Philippine Boxing Federation president Jun Sarreal, who acted as emissary, returned over the weekend with a jarring report. Sulaiman, the WBC president, explained that Espinosa's case was no longer in their jurisdiction.

The case was purely local in nature.

Sulaiman told Sarreal that the agency "mainly and directly responsible for the non-payment of the purse was the local commission."

Sarreal, picking Sulaiman's signal, specified the Games and Amusements Board as the guilty party.

Sarreal said Sulaiman made the clarification in the presence of noted international promoter Akihiko Honda of Japan.

Unfortunately, Sarreal stated the man who should be answerable for all this mess, lawyer Dominador Cepeda, has long been replaced as GAB chief.

"It's specified in WBC rules that the local supervisor should strictly see to it that purses were paid before a world championship is staged," Sarreal stated.

All told, Espinosa and his handlers, which include Hermie Rivera, his former manager, are left asking a bigger question: Would Cepeda be man enough to face up to the charges in his private capacity?

* * *

Or would the reigning GAB chair, Mr. Eduardo Villanueva, take the cudgels for his agency?

You see, just like Cepeda, Villanueva was present in that Pattaya boxing convention.

The current GAB head was there as representative of his agency; Cepeda as rightful and recognized member of the WBC central board.

Anyway, it became clear that the WBC no longer bothered to bring Espinosa's complaint to Cepeda's attention during the WBC convention.

It's also very doubtful if the current GAB chief, appointed by the President and tipped to be a buddy-buddy of Mike Arroyo, would dare call Cepeda's attention to the unpaid $150,000 purse.

In fact, reported our scout in the WBC meet, Villanueva was visibly overwhelmed by the swirl of events in Pattaya.

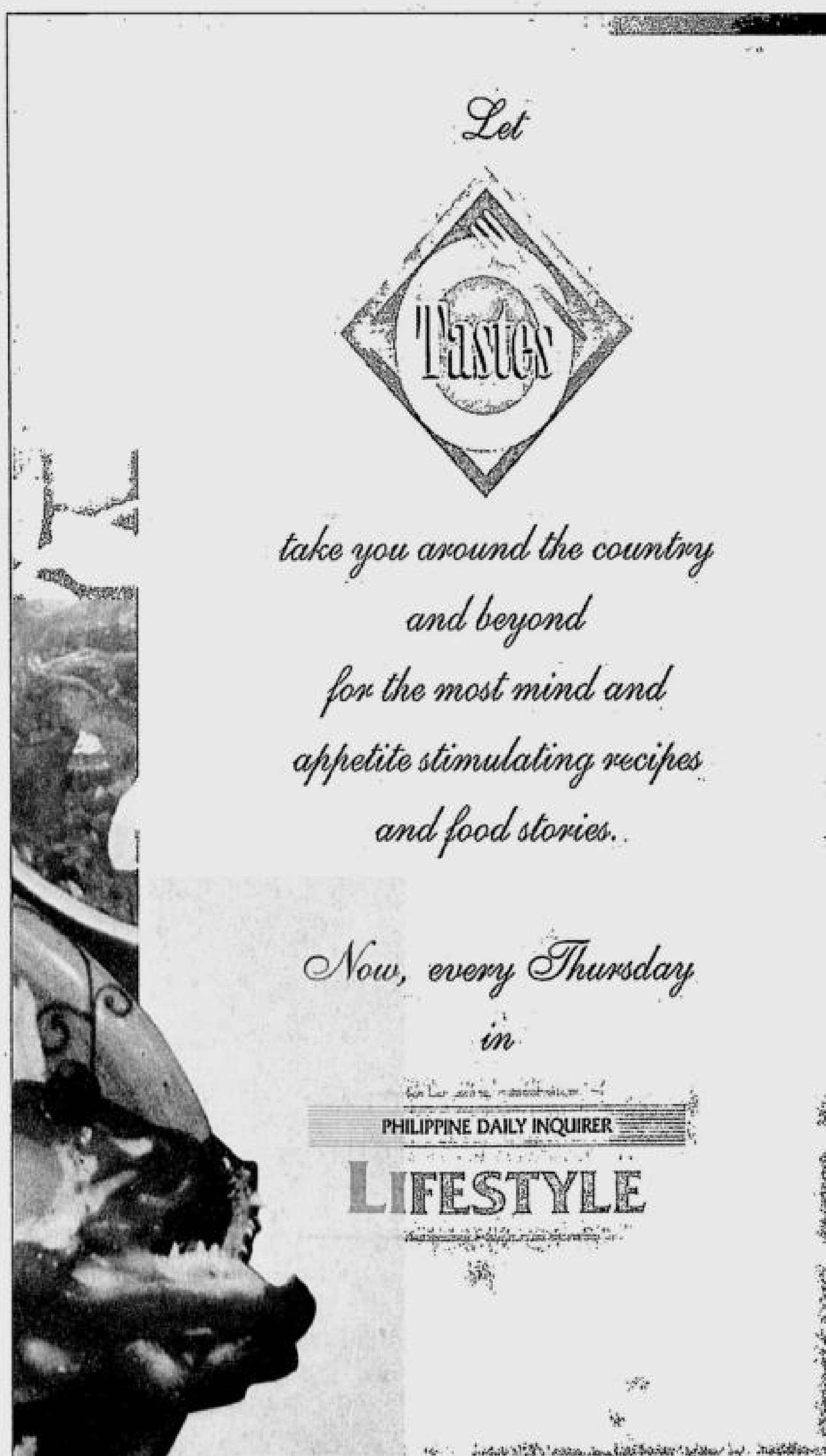
The new GAB chief, the scout added, was often seen sitting around, visibly flushed and dumbfounded. It was the first time he had to attend a world boxing convention.

Naturally, local boxing people have been left to wonder if GAB chief Villanueva was able to submit a bit of input for the benefit of Filipino boxers during the important WBC conference.

As for Senor Cepeda, he was reported to be at the center of activities in various committee tables. A life of the party, if you please.

He, reported the scout, was unlike the Cepeda of old who would just hang around. The ex-GAB chief was there to be accounted for, in full view of his idol, Jose Sulaiman.

This is not meant to be another joke. But while in Pattaya, someone suspected and wondered if Cepeda could be cramming to regain his old GAB post.



Fears are confirmed: Chua killer not here

By Norman Bordadora

IMMIGRATION authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday confirmed the fears of the father of slain University of Sto. Tomas ROTC cadet Mark Welson Chua: The principal suspect in his son's murder had already fled the country.

Immigration intelligence officer Rudy David confirmed to the Inquirer that Michael Von Manangbao, commander of the UST corps of cadets, had left the country for the United States.

David said Manangbao left on board a Philippine Airlines flight bound for Los Angeles on Oct. 5, more than one month before the Bureau of Immigration received an order on Nov. 23 to place the suspect on its watch list.

Although no hold departure order was put out for Manangbao, being on the immigration watch list means he would be allowed to leave the country only five days after he would first show up at the country's ports to leave.

On Monday, Chua's father, Welson, came out with a statement criticizing Manangbao's father, Chief Supt. Ruel Manangbao, for allegedly reneging on an earlier promise that he would not get in the way of the investigation on his son's involvement in the Chua slay.

The older Chua described the younger Manangbao's travel to the United States as an obvious sign of guilt.

He asked the National Bureau of Investigation and the PNP to ensure that Manangbao will face the charges against him in the Philippines.

The Department of Justice last week ordered the reopening of the preliminary investigation of Chua's killing after two new witnesses said that they saw Chua's body taken out of UST Reserve Officers' Training Course office on the night of March 15.

Four other witnesses had claimed that they saw Manangbao and five other suspects hazing Chua on the same night.

The next day, Chua's body was found floating in the Pasig River. He was allegedly killed for his critical articles in The Varsitarian regarding corruption in the UST ROTC corps.

Guadalupe Shrine as fortress against 'pro-death culture'

By Armand N. Nocum

ALARMED by what they feared to be an increasing "pro-death culture" among Filipinos who practice abortion, Catholic Church leaders have proposed to turn the Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Makati City into the country's foremost "Pro-life Shrine."

Monsignor Salvador R. Jose, Manila archdiocesan director for the Promotion of the Devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, said the Lady of Guadalupe is the "Patroness of life from womb to tomb, especially of the unborn, the sick, the aging, the disabled and others."

Abortion is outlawed in the Philippines, a predominantly Catholic country.

Jose said in a statement that "there is a new cultural climate hostile to life, termed the 'culture of death," where "so many people justify certain crimes against life in the name of liberty and economic progress."

"Materialistic, economic progress seems to be at the present age one of the greatest obstacles to the culture of life that is promoted by Our Lord Jesus Christ," he said.

And with the shrine for the "Patroness of the Unborn" located right in the country's premier business center, Msgr. Jose said the promotion of life will be fully realized.

"I believe that the recognition of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Church as the Pro-Life Shrine of Metro Manila and hopefully the Philippines will provide a religious-cultural center for the brave crusade for the culture of life," he said.

Brother Bong Guiuan of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish said the move is timely, considering that the parish is celebrating its golden jubilee foundation today, feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Msgr. Jose said that the Lady of Guadalupe came to be known as the patroness of life because it was her apparitions in Mexico that ushered in the evangelization of the Americas and put a stop "the sacrificial offerings of thousands of human lives to the Aztec god."

Christmas concert

THE MUSEUM Foundation of the Philippines will be holding a Christmas dinner concert of popular arias and Broadway classics tomorrow at 22 Xavier St., Greenhills West, San Juan.

Featured artists are soprano Aileen Espinosa Cura, baritones Chinggoy Alonzo and Lionel Guico, and the Pastor Family of Batangas.

The occasion will also mark the induction of the new MFPI board for 2001-2004: Amando Doronilla, Narcisa Escaler, Esperanza Gatbonton, Robert Lane, Rita Ledesma, Lourdes Montinola, Ambet Ocampo and Maria Isabel Ongpin.

Tickets to the dinner concert for the support of the foundation's programs are at P1,500 each. Call Jing Pascual at 813-0771 for information.

CONDEMNATION
Southern Tagalog activists take the remains of Nicanor de los Santos (right) to Mendiola to protest the killing of the human rights advocate in Antipolo City on Dec. 8. Tempers flared during the protest rally yesterday resulting in clashes between the activists and members of the Western Police District's anti-riot squad (above). Human rights group Karapatan condemned the murder and denied police officials' claim that De los Santos was a communist New People's Army leader who was killed in an encounter with military troops. ERIK ARAZAS

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, December 12, 2001
Our Lady of Guadalupe

1st Reading: Zec 2:14-17
Gospel: Lk 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has looked kindly on you. You shall conceive and bear a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever and his reign shall have no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be if I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary

On the hill of Guadalupe, Mexico, the Virgin Mary appeared to a simple native. Mary stood there, as she did in the Magnificat, side by side with the oppressed, the suffering, and the poor. To celebrate this feast today is to recognize, once again, that the Gospel is for the little ones. God acknowledges their dignity, as no other human court has ever done. When God wanted to enter our world, it did not occur to Him to ask the permission of the emperor of Rome. He approached a poor and simple lass of Galilee (an important detail for the many male chauvinists in our midst) for her consent. It's a good thing she said "Yes".

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Pasig mayor shuts down EP oil depot

By Nelson Flores

PASIG City Mayor Soledad Eusebio yesterday ordered the closure of a controversial oil depot after it was found to have operated without any permit from the national and local governments.

Closed at about 10 a.m. was the Eastern Petroleum Compound along JB Miguel Street in Barangay Bambang, a densely populated barangay along the banks of Pasig River.

EP is one of the new oil players of the local oil industry.

According to Eusebio, the compound has been the subject of numerous complaints from local residents.

She added that the foul smell of gasoline has caused respiratory illness among local residents, especially children.

Eusebio said that, based on the investigation conducted by her office, it was learned that EP has been operating without any building permit from the city government for more than two years.

"They do not have any sanitary permit from the city health office, occupancy permit from the Office of the Building Official and their employees have no health certificates," Eusebio said.

She stressed that, aside from absence of necessary permits from the local government, the EP has no clearance from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

Killed over pail of water

A PAIL of water led to the death of driver Jimmy Fernandez after his neighbor Pelito Canales, 27, stabbed him dead yesterday morning in Makati City. Police said Fernandez, of South Superhighway in Barangay Palanan, was in a queue for water at a public water pump and got irritated at Canales for taking too long because he was fixing a hose filled with holes. He then started to bad-mouth Canales, who got mad and pulled out a knife and stabbed him repeatedly, police said. Fernandez was rushed to a hospital, while Canales escaped, police said. *Alcuin Papa*

Sorry, wrong name

REPORTER Donna Cueto was identified as Dona Razzibugan in the photo of Inquirer employees with President Macapagal-Arroyo which appeared in this section yesterday. We regret the error. — *Ed*

Anti-crime groups reject . . .

(From page A25)

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo denied the other day that Lim would be appointed to head the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force. But she recently appointed Lim as "full-time consultant" to the National Anti-Crime Commission, a multi-agency body which the Naktaf is part of.

De Vera and Jimenez said Lim should not even have been appointed NACC consultant. They said "politics and political accommodations should never be mixed with crime fighting."

Lim failed in his bid to recover his old post as Manila mayor during the last elections. He also ran unsuccessfully as president in 1998 but was appointed Department of Interior and Local Government head a year later.

During the Edsa People Power II uprising, Lim, then interior secretary, was one of first Cabinet members who defected from the Estrada camp and supported Ms Macapagal-Arroyo.

But E-Just and VACC said Lim "fully supported Estrada and defended his policies."

They said he only "dropped" Estrada when it became certain that the latter's administration was about to be toppled by the popular revolt.

"In an attempt to ingratiate himself to the Edsa People Power II, he came to Edsa Shrine when Erap was about to resign but was booed by hundreds of thousands of people there present," they added.

As interior secretary, E-Just and VACC said Lim "officially cleared" Mr. Estrada of the charges of amassing ill-gotten wealth including the infamous "Boracay property" and other prime real estate properties.

They said his clearance of Estrada was found to be "unjustified" and the former president was eventually charged with plunder.

The two groups also recalled that the Court of Appeals found Lim to have violated the constitutional and human rights of ordinary citizens when he arbitrarily spray-painted the homes of citizens he tagged as drug pushers, even if they were not charged or convicted by a court of law.

"He acted as accuser, judge and executioner all the same time without the regard to the rule of law," the E-Just and VACC said.

During the Senate investigation on the charges against Senator Lacson, who recommended Lim to the interior department, the two groups said the former secretary never said one word against Lacson as drug lord.

Guy who cut off 'small' penis left with 'tiny' consolation

HE said he did it in a fit of madness. Friends claimed he became despondent after he became the butt of jokes.

No matter what, Rhudyll Isorena, 25, cut off his penis on Monday night.

Isorena, of Rosario Hills, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, was rushed to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) after he cut off "most" of his sex organ near his home.

"He said he was out of his mind when he did it," said Dr. Jojo Castillo, of the PGH Urology Section, and the victim's attending physician.

The victim was in pain when he was brought in Monday night.

Unconfirmed reports however said Isorena cut off his penis after his friends teased him about its smallness.

The victim and his friends reportedly had a drinking bout on Monday night. At the height of the drinking spree, they dared each other to show their sex organs to determine who had the "biggest" one.

Isorena allegedly became the butt of jokes after they had been through showing off.

Drunk, the victim allegedly became despondent, took a knife and cut off his penis.

The Inquirer tried to reach Isorena but he was still recovering yesterday afternoon. He had no relative around in the hospital.

Castillo said that only a few centimeters have remained of Isorena's sex organ.

As a consolation, he said the victim could still urinate or impregnate a woman.

"He still has a stump. He can still have sex, although the thing does not look good," Castillo said.

The doctor said the victim was brought to the hospital around 9:45 p.m. Isorena also lost large amounts of blood but doctors were able to save him, Castillo added.

The doctor said the sliced off portion could have been "reattached" but the severed part was not with the victim when he was brought to PGH. *Philip Tubeza*

Class reunion

THE QUEZON City High School Class '57 Alumni Association Inc. will hold its Christmas party and reunion on Saturday at the house of alumnus engineer Ramon G. Dizon at 15 Makadiyos St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City. Gen. Guillermo T. Domondon, founder of the organization, will grace the affair, along with CY 2001-2002 Association President Ester G. Lacsamana and former class adviser Ms. Lumen Gueco Velasco. QCHS alumni of Class '57 are also welcome to the affair. Contact Mesdames Alice SA Rabuya at 426-3540, Eugenia B. Garcia at 725-29[illegible] or Ester G. Lacsamana at 532-4445 for more details.

Rock awards' show proved NU 107 is still cutting edge

BY MARINEL R. CRUZ

HEAVY downpour and lapses in security were not enough to blunt the cutting edge of new rock when dwNU 107 paid tribute to local rock artists in this year's NU 107 Rock Awards last Dec. 6.

Access to this strictly-by-invitation awards show was close to nil.

There was a horde of rockers still trying to squeeze pass brawny guards when the "NU 107 Rock Awards 2001: A Rock Odyssey" promptly started at 9 p.m. at the Le Pavilion in Pasay City.

Slapshock raked in the most number of awards, snatching from five other equally worthy nominees the Band of the Year and Listeners' Choice awards, while lead guitarist Lee Nadera bagged the Bassist of the Year award.

Behind Slapshock were the bands Wolfgang and Imago which both won two awards.

Manuel Legarda of Wolfgang took over Battery main man Mike Turner's post as best guitarist this year. The Producer of the Year award went to Louie Talan for his work on the band's latest offering, "Acoustica."

Aia de Leon of Imago bested five others and took home the Vocalist of the Year award while NU's own Zach Lucero, one of the hosts of the radio station's "Morning Show with Zach and Joey," went home with a trophy as drummer of the year also for Imago.

The "Money For Food" video, a creation of lensman Monty Parungao for folk band Barbie's Cradle was heralded best music video.

BARBIE Almalbis asking 'Money For Food.'

DIEGO Castillo of Sandwich plays a cut from 'Four-Track Mind.'

The group Three of Fates accepted the trophy for Best Album Packaging for their work on Raynn's self-titled album.

Sandwich front man Marc Abaya, in a Jet Li inspired get-up, led the group in thanking their supporters for the Album of the Year citation given for their second record "Four-Track Mind." The album contained the hits "Food for the Soul" and "Hairpin."

Cynthia Alexander earned what she failed to receive last year by bagging the Song of the Year award for the hit tune "Motorbykle," a song which the artist said she wrote when she was in Scotland.

This year's Hall of Fame award went to dzRJ's radio jock Dante David, popularly known as Howlin' Dave. David, one of the forerunners of alternative music in the local broadcasting scene, supported rock tyros of the '70s by giving them ample airplays in his radio shows.

Members of the group The Itchyworms were honored as the year's best new artists.

The Raw Award for best unsigned bands went to the five-piece indie group Twisted Halo who, later in the night, performed to a roaring crowd.

Comeback group The Dawn, meanwhile, became a big disappointment when it failed to win any of its eight nominations. The band members, rock icons of the '80s, tried to reclaim their glory through their recently released album titled "Prodigal Sun," which has the cut "I Saw You Coming In."

Le Pavilion shook and burly marshals watched as body slammers went wild through the performances of Wolfgang, Chico Science, Imago, Sandwich, The Dawn, Eraserheads, Betrayed, Twisted Halo, Barbie's Cradle, Bad Burn, Battery and Slapshock.

Battery, led by an injured Mike Turner, delivered a power-charged performance with Turner's guitars strapped on Perf de Castro's shoulders.

Slapshock contributed to the damage by rendering the crowd crazy with their hit songs "Getaway" and "She's so Fine," both from their "4th-Degree Burn" album.

And like last year, hormones raged when generously endowed actresses in enticing outfits like Giselle Tongi, Lana Asanin, Angela Velez and Stella Ruiz, presented the awards.

The awards show introduced two new talents as hosts: the boisterously entertaining duo of Tado and Erning, from NU's own television network, UnTV.

Obviously snatching attention from NU regulars like Zach, Joey, Jelly Jean, Jaedee, Tabitha and Francis Groove, Tado and Erning proved their mettle at the awards night, the way they regularly do in UnTV's "Strange Brew" show.

This year's judges included Dennis Garcia, lead guitarist of Hotdog; Erwin Romulo, Philippine Star's resident critic for the Young Star section; Cookie Chua, lead vocals of Color It Red; Buddy Trinidad of Betrayed; Dong Abay of Yano and brothers Mike and Angelo Villegas of the now defunct Rizal Underground.

MARTINEZ FAMILY IN 'LARAWAN'

The Martinez brothers — Albert and William — star in the special Christmas episode "Belen" on GMA 7's "Larawan." Albert and William are joined by their respective partners, Liezel Martinez (second from the left) and Yayo Aguila. "Belen" is about two couples searching for their child. The episode is directed by Gina Alajar and will be aired at 10 tonight on GMA.

PREMIERE NIGHT SPONSOR

Megastar Sharon Cuneta and action star Robin Padilla thanked Dunkin Donuts for the support given to their movie, "Pagdating ng Panahon," during the successful premiere held at SM Megamall. The movie produced by Viva Films marks the screen reunion of the popular stars who were last seen in "Maging Sino Ka Man," eight years ago. Based on Alza Seguerra's hit single of the same title, "Pagdating ng Panahon" is produced by Viva Films. Sharon and Robin are joined by J. Romero and Associates' Monday Gonzalez and Bobby Simborio, who hosted the brief program prior to the screening.

Realistic visual effects give 'Yamashita' the winning look

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

IN THIS day and age when even the human embryo can be cloned, anything and everything is possible with computer technology.

In a movie which needs production design and authentic props dating back to World War II, trust the computer geniuses to recreate the required backdrop, without any labor-intensive mess.

So when MaQ Films, sister company of Regal Entertainment, decided to make a film about the legendary treasures of Yamashita, the outfit knew it was in for a challenging and tough project.

But **Chito Roño**'s "Yamashita," an official entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), is not an ambitious project for nothing. The film's stratospheric budget alone was pegged at P80 million. State-of-the-art computer effects yield realistic results for the movie. An enormous amount of research also accompanied the making of "Yamashita," to achieve the authenticity for the visual look.

From the weaponry and battle ships to the fighter planes and costumes, "Yamashita" takes the audience back to the war years in the '40s, which comprise 30 percent of the film's narrative.

"Yamashita" is a co-production venture of MaQ Films and Roadrunner Network, which did the Herculean task of creating the visual and realistic special effects for the heart-stopping adventure vehicle.

"There are only four minutes of special effects in 'Yamashita,' but they're spread all over the film," informs Roadrunner managing director Allan Escaño. "'Jurassic Park' has eight minutes of effect, just to put that in perspective."

The cyber designers behind Roadrunner, who also worked on the visual thrills for last year's filmfest topgrosser, "Spirit Warriors," created explicit computer-generated effects for "Yamashita," which account for one fourth (P20 million) of the total film budget.

"Our computer animators had to create World War II planes and ships from scratch," says Allan. "The production team, headed by Chito, supplied us with lots of research materials. We also did research on books and the Internet."

Roadrunner is involved in the making of "Yamashita" not just in post-production, which usually happens in most movies that need special effects.

"We are involved in pre-prod and even in the conceptualization stage," says Allan. "We had to interact with the writers to make sure what effects are possible. That's more cost-efficient. The most difficult was to create all the models that didn't exist anymore and match them with live action.

"The effects are supposed to support the story, not the other way around. If we only come in the post-prod, we'd end up doing the effects for the sake of having effects in the movie. That's the wrong way to do it."

In "Yamashita," the effects were planned right after the script is finalized. Visual effects supervisor **Dodge Ledesma** did the storyboard, so everyone on the team—including the cinematographer, director, production designer and scriptwriter—was prepared and aware of his intentions.

"It's not just computer techniques," Allan points out. "Dodge had to do a lot of trigonometry. For instance, he has to consider the distance of the focal length of the camera when flying scenes are being filmed. It's both science and art to do it properly.

"There should be detailed preparation. Half of the work is done at Roadrunner, the rest is done on the set during filming."

Allan boasts that "Yamashita" offers special effects never-before-seen in local movies. The computer-generated planes are something viewers only saw in **Jerry Bruckheimer**'s "Pearl Harbor." A big scene which required thousands of people was made possible through a computerized crowd multiplication effect, similar to what was seen in the Academy Award winning picture, "Gladiator," where actor Russell Crowe had to fight it out to the finish in an arena filled with a million spectators.

"The work is tougher for the special effects people in 'Yamashita,' unlike in fantasy movies where the audience has no visual pegs. In fantasy flicks, we can create a monster and make it look different. But viewers know what a real plane looks like.

"A film like 'Forrest Gump' is not a special effects movie like 'Jurrasic Park' or 'Star Wars.' But 'Forrest Gump' used a lot of visual computer effects."

Unlike "Spirit Warriors," however, the effects in "Yamashita" are very explicit.

In 'Spirit Warriors,' our job was to make viewers entertained with the special effects," Allan grants. "In 'Yamashita,' we did realistic effects. The audience is not supposed to know what the effects are. We want to make them believe the effects are real. If we are able to suspend their disbelief, then we did our job well."

Roadrunner created a hospital ship used in the Japanese era for "Yamashita." A '70s ship was transformed into a World War II vessel to make it look old.

It would be easy to understand why so much money was needed for the production, according to MaQ Films producer **Roselle Monteverde-Teo**. "A World War II-era hospital ship alone does not make a movie," Roselle says. "A whole lot more needs to be computer-generated. It needs an ocean to float on. That, too, needs to be generated. Then you need the sky and also the warplanes. They will all be seen in this movie."

Roadrunner employs computer-animated technique using the same machines and equipment being used in big Hollywood productions.

"We have the same state-of-the-art hardware and software," Allan offers. "We are capable of creating the same effects that viewers see in a Hollywood movie. That's no longer impossible here. Only the time and budget spell the big difference."

Roadrunner also created special effects for four other filmfest entries —**Uro de la Cruz**'s "Bahay ni Lola," **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**'s "Bagong Buwan," **Tikoy Aguiluz**'s "Tatarin" and **Joel Lamangan**'s "Hubog."

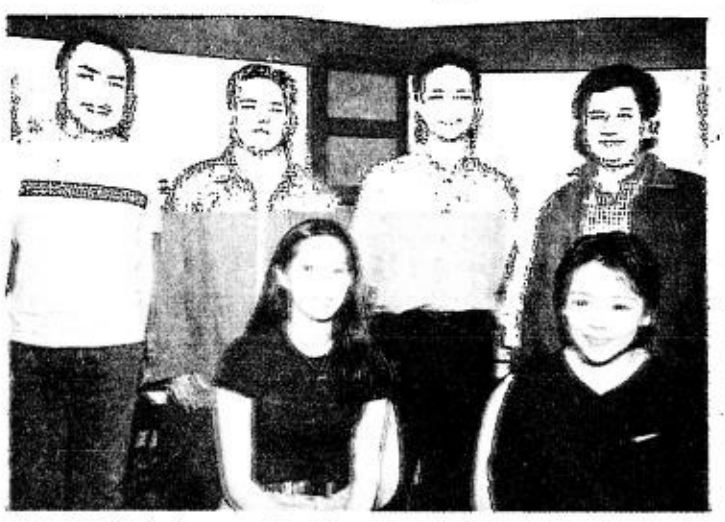
"Yamashita" follows a labyrinthine chase along the bounty hunter underworld of missing treasure, from the spunky viewpoints of a gang of teenagers, led by Jobert, played by **Danilo Barrios**, and his chums—**Camille Prats, Mico Palanca, Ethan Javier** and **Bearwin Meily**.

Armando Goyena plays Jobert's Lolo Melo, a wartime witness to the Yamashita caper and leaves his coded wartime diaries in the care of his grandson.

Veteran screen villain **Vic Diaz** plays the Japanese evil officer who returns to the country 60 years later, now a crime syndicate boss, to reclaim the loot with his triggerman, **Rustom Padilla**.

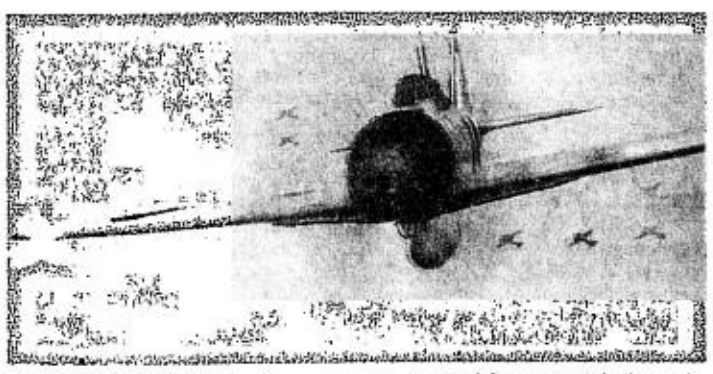
The search for the Yamashita treasure begins across the Pacific. The first chapter unfolds in California, where Lolo Melo, who holds the key to the riches through a map cleverly disguised as an old diary, reveals the secret to his grandson.

MaQ Films sent Roño and his production team, with Goyena and Barrios to the US West Coast, to shoot the first few scenes of the movie. The three-week filming took them to Vallejo, Hillsborough, Lake Berryesa near Napa Valley, Daly City and San Francisco.



THE CYBER designers of Roadrunner Network's Domino Department create the realistic visual effects for "Yamashita:" (seated from left) Dayan Enriquez and Carol Bernaldez; (standing from left) Ian Hontanosas, Richard Francia, Allan Escaño and Dodge Ledesma.

DIRECTOR Chito Roño (right) at work on the set, with lead villain Vic Diaz.



WARPLANES during the Japanese era created from scratch through computer-generated technique.

PERIOD LOOK: A war ship during the Japanese era.

Lamangan cries 'unfair'

JOEL Lamangan, director of the Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Hubog," was on the phone Monday, reacting to a letter which came out on this column, from **Aldo Filomeno**, spokesperson of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography (Showbiz Tidbits – 12/10/01).

Filomeno criticized Lamangan for making 16-year-old actress **Alessandra de Rossi** portray an autistic person, who gets sexually molested for the price of a hamburger in "Hubog."

"If it pained him to read the column item about Alessandra's portrayal, it angered me when he called me 'lunatic' and 'dangerous to society,' when he hasn't even seen the film. That's very unfair.

"Any subject can be turned into a movie by an artist as long as it reflects a certain truth, especially if the truth serves the interest of the majority, which in this movie, it does.

"His (Filomeno's) kind of mentality is the thing that speaks of lunacy and he's the one dangerous to society. He's very judgmental without investigation or knowing the fact."

Lamangan points out that "Hubog" is not about autism. It was inspired by an episode of "Pira-Pirasong Pangarap," where **Lorna Tolentino** won an award for playing mom to a mentally challenged daughter.

"We did not exploit Alessandra's character in the film. We simply tried to present reality. The film did not even show the exploitation that much. It was only insinuated.

"Alessandra didn't even bare in the film. So what does an anti-pornography group have to do with

Hobbits seek Harry Potter magic, as 'Lord of the Rings' hits big screen

LONDON—Harry Potter may be working his wizardry on box offices the world over, but he doesn't have a monopoly on magic and mythology at the movies this Christmas.

"The Lord of the Rings—the Fellowship of the Ring" premieres in London Monday, the first of a trilogy of films from the J.R.R. Tolkien tome, that have reportedly cost more than $300 million to make.

The film is released at 10,000 cinemas from Dec. 19.

But while Harry Potter always looked like a cinematic deadcert, the "Lord of the Rings" movie, three hours of gothic fairytale with armies of extras and the usual stunning visual effects, has endured a more controversial path to the silver screen.

Unhappy

Certain members of Tolkien's family are unhappy that the book has fallen into the hands of filmmakers. They believe the author, who died in 1974, never felt that cinema could do his work justice.

"My own position is that 'The Lord of the Rings' is peculiarly unsuitable to transformation into visual dramatic form," said Christopher Tolkien, J.R.R. Tolkien's youngest son.

The second problem facing the studio that put together the film, New Line Cinema, was the sheer scale of the original work.

"The Lord of the Rings" is a trilogy of 200,000 words, longer than "War and Peace."

One previous effort to render it as a cartoon was considered a spectacular failure.

Trilogy form

Director Peter Jackson has followed the trilogy form, shooting three films all at once in 15 months of production. Parts two and three are set for release at the end of 2002 and 2003.

Although some license has been used, Jackson tried to stick as close to the text as possible.

"We constantly referred to the book, not just in writing the screenplay but also throughout the production," he said. "Every time we shot a scene I re-read that part of the book right before, as did the cast."

Early showing

An early showing of the movie to journalists on Saturday night won grudging admiration for special effects and occasional moments of genuine terror, but some were skeptical at the "cliffhanger" ending which gives no closure or resolution, but instead seeks to tease audiences to come back next year for part two.

"It was a bit slow and long," said one Italian journalist and film critic, who did not wish to be named. "It was visually stunning but that is so easy to do nowadays. There were so many references, it was a bit like Gladiator meets the Divine Comedy."

Like Harry Potter, "Lord of the Rings" comes with the usual formidable array of promotional tie-ins and merchandising neatly timed for the festive season.

The official website claims to have had more than 400 million hits. Frodo Baggins and Gandalf figurines are in the shops. *AFP*

AGA'S CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING DENNIS SABANGAN

Actor Aga Muhlach distributes toys to orphans and street children during the early Christmas gift-giving of Jollibee, held at the outlet in Robinson's Galleria.

'Ocean's 11' beats 'Potter'

LOS ANGELES—The all-star movie "Ocean's 11" beat the magic of Harry Potter across North America, topping the kids' blockbuster in weekend receipts, according to preliminary data released Sunday by Exhibitor Relations Inc.

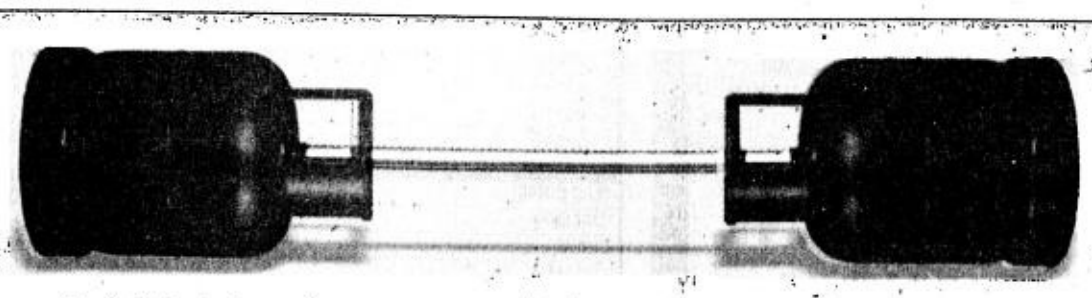
"Ocean's 11," which features Julia Roberts, George Clooney, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia and Brad Pitt, was expected to take in $39.2 million in its debut.

After holding the top spot for three weeks, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" slipped to second place, with an expected take of $14.8 million, the company said.

"Harry Potter" has grossed an estimated $239.7 million in the four weeks since its release.

"Behind Enemy Lines," a movie portraying the rescue of a US pilot downed in Bosnia, was in third place, with an expected take of $8.1 million.

It was followed by "Monsters, Inc" ($6.6 million), "Spy Game" ($4.6 million), "Black Knight" ($3.2 million) and "Shallow Hal" ($2.5 million). *AFP*



Is buying LPG too heavy to bear?
Then call:
887-5555
Shellane Hatid Balon
We deliver LPG to your doorstep.
Avail of the X-change to Shellane promo and get a Shellane LPG tank and free regulator.
Promo valid in selected Metro Manila areas. Extended until Dec. 23, 2001*
* Approved by DTI-NCR.
Per DTI-NCR permit no. 3164, series of 2001.

Male dance revue in Stars of Giorgio

A BOLD male revue in an elegant fine dining restaurant that serves the best Mediterranean dishes in town?

Why not?

Exotic male dancers take centerstage tonight in a special show, "All About M," at Stars of Giorgio Restaurant, owned by noted prosperity guru and restaurateur, George Sison.

The show is produced by Styleworks, a new outfit headed by fashion designer Danny de la Cuesta and former advertising talent caster Efren Jose.

The show has titillating and suggestive numbers like "The Greek God," "The Jungle King," "Fallen Angels" and "It's Raining Men."

There are also sensual takeoffs on Marlon Brando, all rippling muscles on his big bike in "On the Waterfront," and Bob Fosse's autoerotic dance in "All That Jazz."

The male performers dance like Michael Jackson, sans the makeup and fancy clothes. They begin their numbers in costumes designed by De la Cuesta.

But don't get the idea that Stars of Giorgio is turning into *La Cage aux Folles*.

Wednesday is girls' night-out, Saturday is "Classical Encounters" night, a dinner-concert featuring a pianist and sopranos doing solos and duets from Bach to Bacharach, presented by The Class Act.

The rest of the week is devoted to dining in an ambience evocative of the "Arabian Nights" and serving dishes worthy of a thousand and one night feast, lustily named by Giorgio's irrepressible George: Arabian Ticklers, Priscilla's Secret, Aphrodite's Magic, Queen of Sheba, Eros (a sizzling bout with *balut*).

For the show, entree is the Shank of Venus, accompanied by soup, appetizer and dessert. Dinner is at 7 p.m., while show starts 9:30 p.m.

Stars of Giorgio, fast turning into the town's foremost dining-theater venue, is open to innovative, top-quality fun acts and shows for its once-a-week slots.

For show inquiries and reservations, call up Ari Catipon at 893-7520 or 816-0503.

Stars of Giorgio is located at the G/F Priscilla 100 Bldg., 2297, Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.

Wanted vocalists

DMV ENTERTAINMENT family led by Maricel Soriano, Assunta de Rossi, Jay Manalo, Jean Garcia, Ynez Veneracion, Alessandra de Rossi and Boyztown, is looking for male and female vocalist and rhythm section for a new show band.

Applicants should be 18 to 25 years old, good-looking and with talents in hosting and singing.

Interested applicants should bring their bio-data with matching recent photos to No. 5 Scout Magbanua corner Roces Avenue, Quezon City.

For details, call Chino or Beth at 374-1361/ 415-0373/ 0917-4532427.

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4373888
1 SUMMER CATCH
2 THE SCORE
3 HARRY POTTER
4 MVP
5 EARTHQUAKE
6 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
8 MUSKETEER

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522-7161416
1 MVP
2 THE SCORE
3 SUMMER CATCH
4 EARTHQUAKE
5 HARRY POTTER
6 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
7 MUSKETEER
8 MONSTERS, INC.
9 ROCKSTAR
10 PAGDATING NG PANAHON

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9359749
1 MVP
2 OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
4 HARRY POTTER
5 MUSKETEER
6 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7 SUMMER CATCH
8 ROCKSTAR
9 EARTHQUAKE
10 SUTLA (RI)
11 THE SCORE
12 MARKOVA (RI)

SM CITY MANILA 5238040
1 MONSTERS, INC
2 MUSKETEER
3 MVP
4 SUMMER CATCH
5 ROCKSTAR
6 HARRY POTTER
7 SUTLA (RI)
8 THE SCORE
9 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
11 EARTHQUAKE
12 MARKOVA (RI)

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401
1 DREAM GIRL
2 MONSTERS, INC
3 HARRY POTTER
4 SUMMER CATCH
5 MVP
6 THE SCORE
7 SUTLA (RI)
8 EARTHQUAKE
9 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10 MUSKETEER
11 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
12 MARKOVA (RI)

SM TUTUBAN 2514002
1 SUMMER CATCH
2 MVP
3 EARTHQUAKE
4 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9205452
1 MARKOVA (RI)
2 MUSKETEER
3 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
4 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5 EARTHQUAKE
6 HARRY POTTER
7 SUMMER CATCH
8 MVP
9 SUTLA (RI)
10 THE SCORE
11 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
12 MONSTERS, INC.

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888
1 EARTHQUAKE
2 THE SCORE
3 HARRY POTTER
4 MVP
5 DREAM GIRL
6 ROCKSTAR
7 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
8 SUMMER CATCH
9 MUSKETEER
10 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8530805
1 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
2 2 PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 EARTHQUAKE

SM CEBU 2313076
1 HARRY POTTER
2 KAPITAN AMBO
3 JEEPERS CREEPERS
4 GLITTER
5 OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
6 THE SCORE
7 JOY RIDE

SM ILOILO 3305412
1 HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
2 CLOSED
3 HARRY POTTER
4 JEEPERS CREEPERS
5 THE SCORE
6 JOY RIDE
7 CLOSED
8 GLITTER

SM PAMPANGA 3120015
1 HARRY POTTER
2 JOY RIDE
3 MUSKETEER
4 KING OF GLADIATORS
5 TIKIM
6 PAGDATING NG PANAHON

SM SUCAT 8294815
1 MVP
2 SUMMER CATCH
3 HARRY POTTER
4 PAGDATING NG PANAHON

SM DAVAO
1 JEEPERS CREEPERS
2 HARRY POTTER
3 IRON LADIES
4 BUBBLE BOY
5 HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
6 TIKIM

dts DOLBY DIGITAL

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.suroseats.com

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD
1 SUMMER CATCH in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2 EARTHQUAKE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 HARRY POTTER in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 THE MUSKETEER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4
1 MONSTERS, INC. in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 THE SCORE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 SUMMER CATCH THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CINEMANILA in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 MVP: MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 HARRY POTTER in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 ROCKSTAR in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film

GREENBELT
1 CINEMANILA in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 SUMMER CATCH in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 CINEMANILA in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 REGINE AT THE MOVIES DEC. 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 SUMMER CATCH THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 MVP: MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE SCORE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 MONSTERS, INC. in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 HARRY POTTER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest Festivail Cinema (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) MVP
2 (SDDS) MONSTER, INC.
3 (DTS) HARRY POTTER
4 GOLD (DTS) ROCKSTAR
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE SCORE
6 GOLD (SDDS) SUMMER CATCH
7 GOLD (DOLBY) MUSKETEER
8 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
9 EARTHQUAKE
10 SUTLA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS) DREAM GIRL
4 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana Cinema (Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
2 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
3 SUTLA

stormall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
3 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THE SCORE
5 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT

METROPOLIS star 543.3927 loc. 150
1 EARTHQUAKE
2 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
3 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
4 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5 HARRY POTTER
6 SUMMER CATCH
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13
1 SUMMER CATCH

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 HARRY POTTER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515
1 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
2 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 SUTLA

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
A DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
2
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8568
1 (DOLBY) DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
2
3
4 SUTLA
5 EARTHQUAKE
6 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
7 (DTS) SUMMER CATCH
8 (SDDS) MVP
9 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER

Caloocan tel 362.3508
2 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
3 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
4 (SDDS) SUMMER CATCH
5 SUTLA
6 (DOLBY) EARTHQUAKE
7 (DTS) HARRY POTTER
8 TIKIM
9 THE SCORE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) SUMMER CATCH
2 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
4 EARTHQUAKE
5 (SDDS) MVP
6 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
7 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER
8 SUTLA

Ortigas tel 656.6795
1 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 (DTS) HARRY POTTER
4 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
5 (SDDS) MVP

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470
1 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson Lords Jennet

Mandaluyong Marketplace tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 OPENS DEC. 25, 2001
2 OPENS DEC. 25, 2001
3 OPENS DEC. 25, 2001

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215
3 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4639
1 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
3 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 SUTLA

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115
1 (DOLBY) DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
2 SUTLA

Berma tel 879.2029
1 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
2 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
2 SUMMER CATCH

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 ROCKSTAR
2 SUTLA
3 (DTS) HARRY POTTER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 DREAM GIRL
2 (DTS) ROCKSTAR
3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER
4 JOY RIDE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 JEEPERS CREEPERS
2 (DOLBY) ROCKSTAR
3 (DTS) HARRY POTTER
4 JOY RIDE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 HARRY POTTER
2 WEYT A MINIT
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown (Tarlac)
1 KAPITAN AMBO
2 KING OF GLADIATORS
3 (DOLBY) JOY RIDE
4 (DTS) MONSTERS, INC

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) EARTHQUAKE
2 MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
3 DALAWANG PISNGI NG LANGIT
4 (DTS) SUTLA

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ROCKSTAR
2 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 (DTS) JOY RIDE
4 SUTLA
5 KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 SUTLA
2 ROCKSTAR
3 JEEPERS CREEPERS

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249-2558
1 SUTLA
2 ROCKSTAR
3 JOY RIDE

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311
1 KAPITAN AMBO
2 TIKIM
3

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 ROCKSTAR
2 JOY RIDE
3

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
2 (DTS)

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 KUMAKASA PUMUPUTOK
2 SUTLA
3 HARRY POTTER

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 KAPITAN AMBO
2 JOY RIDE
3 MONSTERS, INC
4 TIKIM

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2 HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
3 DON'T SAY A WORD
4 (DTS EX) KAPITAN AMBO

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

PREMIERE THX NOW SHOWING

SUMMER CATCH

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas
NOW SHOWING
e-mail : hbo@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA 632-9115-19/633-7041 loc. 270
1 HARRY POTTER
2 HARRY POTTER
3 THE SCORE
4 ROCKSTAR
5 DREAMGIRL
6 MONSTER, INC.
7 OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
8 MUSKETEER
9 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
10 IRON LADIES

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12
1 ROCKSTAR
2 HARRY POTTER
3 MONSTERS, INC.
4 THE SCORE
5 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
6 DREAM GIRL
7 MUSKETEER

METRO EAST 632-9115-19/633-7041
1 OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
2 HARRY POTTER
3 THE SCORE
4 IRON LADIES
5 MUSKETEER
6 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
7 ROCKSTAR
8 DREAM GIRL

NOVALICHES 935-0229 TO 31
1 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
2 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
3 DREAM GIRL
4 THE SCORE
5 ROCKSTAR
6 MUSKETEER
7 HARRY POTTER
8 MONSTERS, INC.

IMUS (046) 471-6199
1 HARRY POTTER
2 THE SCORE
3 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
4 MUSKETEER
5 ROCKSTAR
6 DREAM GIRL

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0459
1 HARRY POTTER
2 THE ONE
3 JEEPERS CREEPERS
4 SERENDIPITY
5 MONSTERS, INC.
6 WEYT A MINIT

ILOILO (033) 330-8077 / 8078
1 DON'T SAY A WORD
2 KING OF GLADIATORS
3 HARRY POTTER
4 PAGDATING NG PANAHON
5 SOON TO OPEN
6 SOON TO OPEN

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SUTLA (RE-ISSUE)
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MUSKETEER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	EARTHQUAKE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MVP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	SUMMER CATCH
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	PISNGI
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MARITAL RAPE / EROTIC DIARIES
ODEON	EARTHQUAKE
ODEON-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
ROBEN	PISNGI
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	PUKYUTAN / STORY OF US
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
REMAR	PISNGI
REMAR-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	DALAWANG PISNGI
B	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
C	SUTLA (RI)
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-2	SUMMER CATCH
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ROCKSTAR
CINEMA-2	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT
CINEMA-3	HUWAG KANG KIKIBO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE SCORE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MONSTER, INC.
CINEMA-6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
CINEMA-7	SUTLA (RI)
CINEMA-8	PISNGI
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUMMER CATCH
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	EARTHQUAKE
CINEMA-12	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
CINEMA-14	MUSKETEER
CINEMA-15	PAGDATING NG PANAHON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE MUSKETEER
CINEMA-2	MONSTERS, INC.
CINEMA-3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-4	SUMMER CATCH
CINEMA-5	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE
CINEMA-6	THE SCORE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

The movies they're making

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHAT new films are our favorite stars and filmmakers working on for our viewing pleasure next year? **Hugh Grant** and **Sandra Bullock** are teaming up for the first time in a movie to be megged by first-time director **Marc Lawrence** (he wrote the screenplay for Bullock's hit starrer, "Miss Congeniality"). Bullock plays a lawyer in the film.

In "Panic Room," **Jodie Foster** plays a single mother whose house is burglarized. For his part, **Denzel Washington** is shooting "John Q.," where he is cast as a father fighting for a heart transplant for his son. Incidentally, Washington will direct his first movie soon. It's "The Antwone Fisher Story," based on the life of a former security guard.

Nicole Kidman has two films in store for her fans. She plays **Virginia Woolf** in the film adaptation of **Michael Cunningham**'s "The Hours." And she will also star in "Dogville," a drama set in a mountain village, **Lars von Trier** directing.

Real-life sweethearts **Tom Cruise** and **Penelope Cruz** (the Cruise-Cruzes!) make hot on-screen love together in "Vanilla Sky." The psychological-thriller is based on the Spanish film, "Abre Los Ojos (Open Your Eyes)" by **Alejandro Almenabar**, to which Cruise bought the remake rights. Interestingly, Cruz acted in the original film.

Steve Martin plays a dentist wronged by a femme fatale (**Helena Bonham Carter**) in "Novocaine." **Laura Dern** is also in the Stellar cast.

And, in "The Affair of the Necklace,' **Hilary Swank** plays her first lead role since winning the Best Actress Oscar for her gender-bending performance in "Boys Don't Cry."

Films on TV

MORE people are watching movies on television these days, so here's a list of the more promising films on our movie channels for the next few days:

On HBO: Wednesday, Dec. 12, 12:15 p.m., "The Patriot." 3 a.m. (early Thursday), "The Outsider."

Thursday, Dec. 13, 9 p.m., "Erin Brockovich."

Friday, Dec. 14, 9 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow."

On Cinemax: Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m., "School Ties." 5:30 p.m., "Moscow on the Hudson." 3:45 a.m., "The Nun's Story."

Dec. 13, 8:15 a.m., "Joan of Arc." 2:15 p.m., "Lawrence of Arabia."

Dec. 14, 1:45 p.m., "Anak." 5:45 p.m., "Bell, Book and Candle." 3:45 a.m., "The Master of Ballantrae."

On Star Movies: Dec. 12 at 7:15 p.m., "L.A.P.D."

Dec. 13 at 10:45 p.m., "The Willies."

Dec. 14 at 7:15 p.m., "Cool Runnings."

Nora on Viva Cinema

EVERY Sunday at 8 p.m. this month, Viva Cinema screens a **Nora Aunor** starrer: Dec. 16, "Beloved." Aunor finds herself a pawn in the games played by **Hilda Koronel**. **Christopher de Leon** and **Dindo Fernando** also play important roles in the film.

Dec. 23, "The Flor Contemplacion Story."

Dec. 30, "Bakit May Kahapon Pa?," with **Eddie Garcia** and **Dawn Zulueta**.

Feedback

FROM **Ramon G. Villarin** of Pasay City: "I am planning to join the screenwriting competition of the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines. Can you give me any pointers on the kind of entry I should submit?

"What are the rules and regulations, how many pages should the script be? Will the scripts entered in the competition stand a good chance of being produced? When is the deadline for submission?"

NUT's note: The deadline is on Dec. 14. For the rules, you can call the FDFPI at 551-4677. Number of pages? Around 100. Kind of entry? We've heard some of the judges in the past say that they were looking for fresh concepts, no film type specified.

Chances of getting produced? Some winning scripts have been made into movies. At present, for example, Star Cinema is shooting "Nine Mornings,' which won second prize in the FDFPI screenwriting contest in 1999. It is directed by **Joey Reyes** and stars **Piolo Pascual** and **Donita Rose**.

SALONGA. Attracted to the script

Lea back in 'Proof'

AFTER reaping commercial and critical success as Mei-Li in the production of "Flower Drum Song" at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, Tony Award and Sir Lawrence Olivier Award-winning actress Lea Salonga returns to Manila to begin rehearsals for "Proof."

"Proof" is a play written by David Auburn that won the Tony Award and Pulitzer prize for drama this year. It is currently a hot ticket in Broadway.

Joining Lea in the cast are Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Joel Trinidad and Michael de Mesa.

Lea found time to do "Proof" in Manila despite a flourishing career in the United States, where she recently starred in the soap series, "As the World Turns," and appeared in a guesting stint in the TV medical drama, "E.R."

Lea said what attracted her to "Proof" is the script. "There is so much honor written for the characters in the play," she said.

"Proof" is a straight play that tells the tale of Catherine, a young woman who inherited an exceptional mathematical genius from her father and fears that she might have inherited his dementia as well. It also shows the strained relationship of Catherine and her elder sister.

"Proof" is directed by Bobby Garcia and staged by Atlantis Productions, the same group which brought the smash hits "Rent," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and "How I Learned To Drive."

"Proof" runs from Jan. 9 to 27, 2002 at the GSIS Theater.

Sponsors are Northwest Airlines and Somerset Millennium Suites.

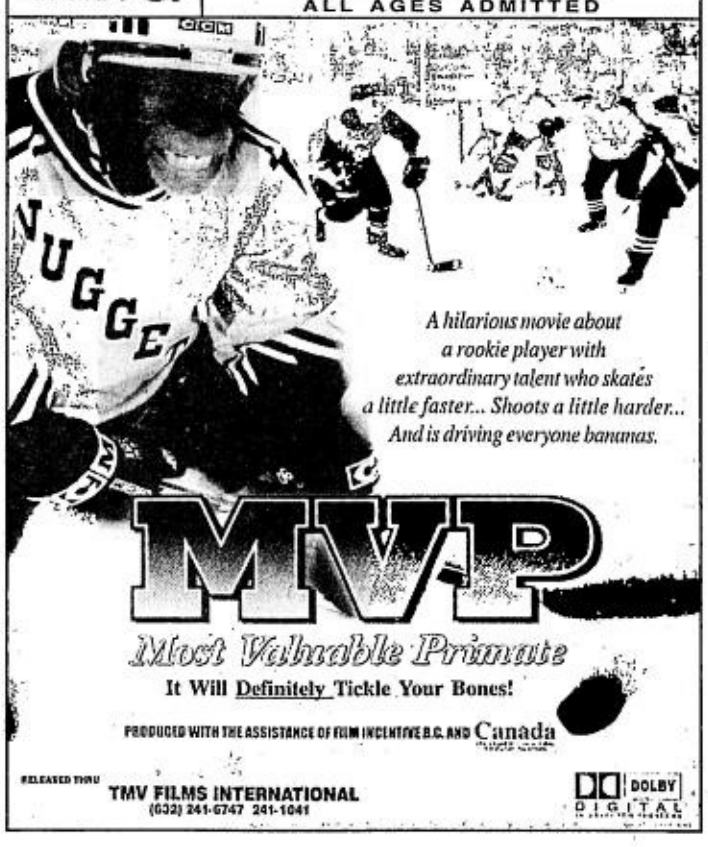
For sponsorship and ticket reservations, call 892-7078.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE MUSKETEER - P 13 12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35	MONSTERS, INC. - GP 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	HARRY POTTER - GP 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50
SUMMER CATCH - P 13 12:50, 3:20, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10	MOST VALUABLE PRIMATE - GP 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	THE SCORE - R 18 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING GP OPENS TODAY ! ALL AGES ADMITTED



GRAND OPENING TODAY !

MTRCB RATING PG - 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

ARE YOU GAME?

CINEMANILA 2001
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
December 7 -16, 2001 Greenbelt & Glorietta Cinemas, Makati City

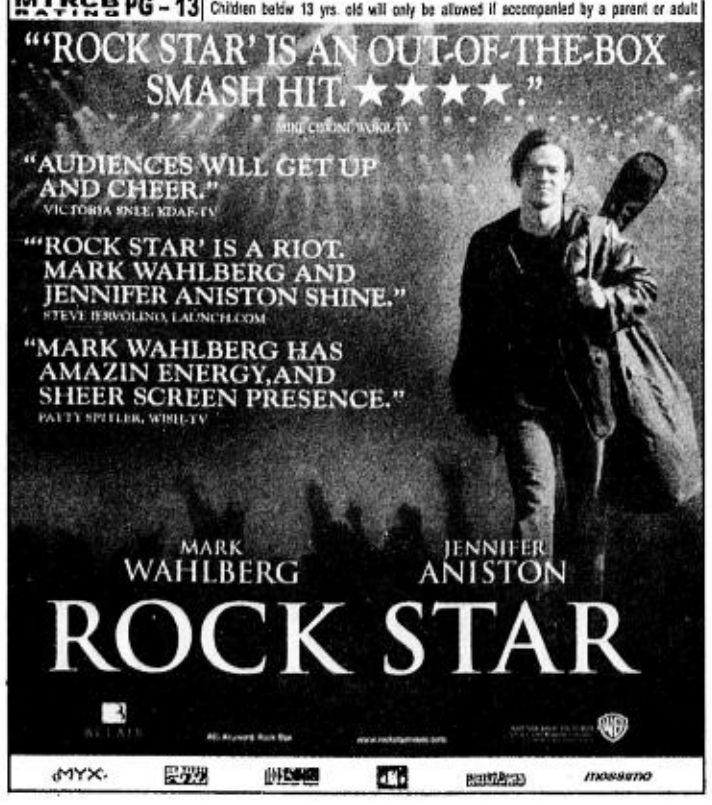
DECEMBER 12 (WEDNESDAY) SCREENING SCHEDULE

Time	Greenbelt 1	Greenbelt 3	Glorietta 4
11:40AM	This Is My Moon* (Sri Lanka)	The Year of the Quiet Sun (Germany) R-18	Erotic Tales (Germany) R-18
2:10PM	Greedy Guts* (Czech Republic)	No Trains, No Planes (Netherlands) R-18	Roads and Bridges (USA) G
4:40PM	Clouds of May* (Turkey)	Ecce Homo (Germany) PG-13	Disoriented (USA PG-13
7:10PM	Bangkok Dangerous* (Thailand)	Farinelli (Belgium) R-18	Happy End (Korea) R-18
9:40PM	Barking Dogs Never Bite (Korea) PG-13	The King Is Dancing (Belgium) R-18	No Turning Back (USA/Spain) PG-13

*Schedule tentative, pending rating from MTRCB

SECOND WEEK !

MTRCB RATING PG - 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

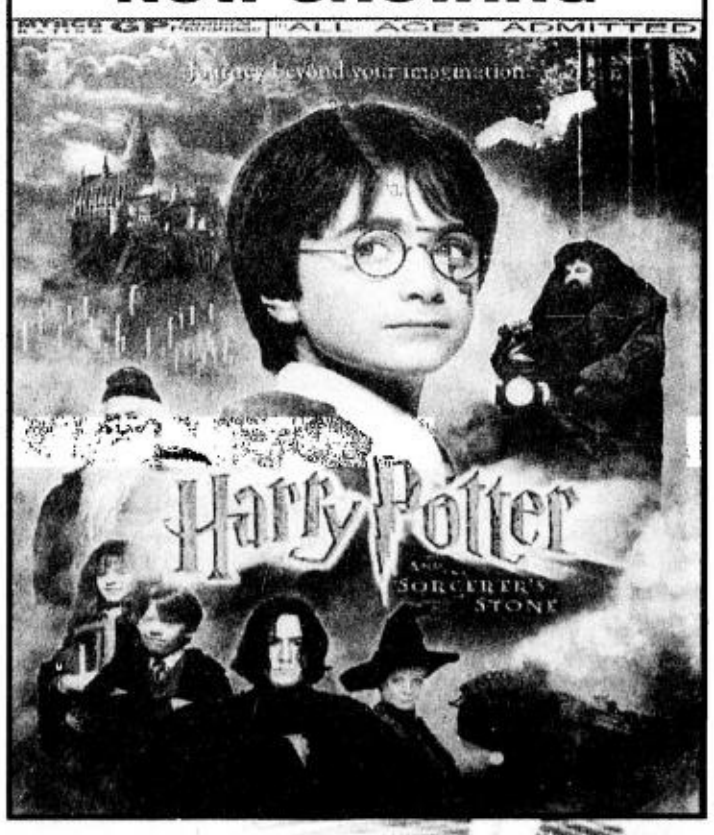


SECOND WEEK !

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW SHOWING



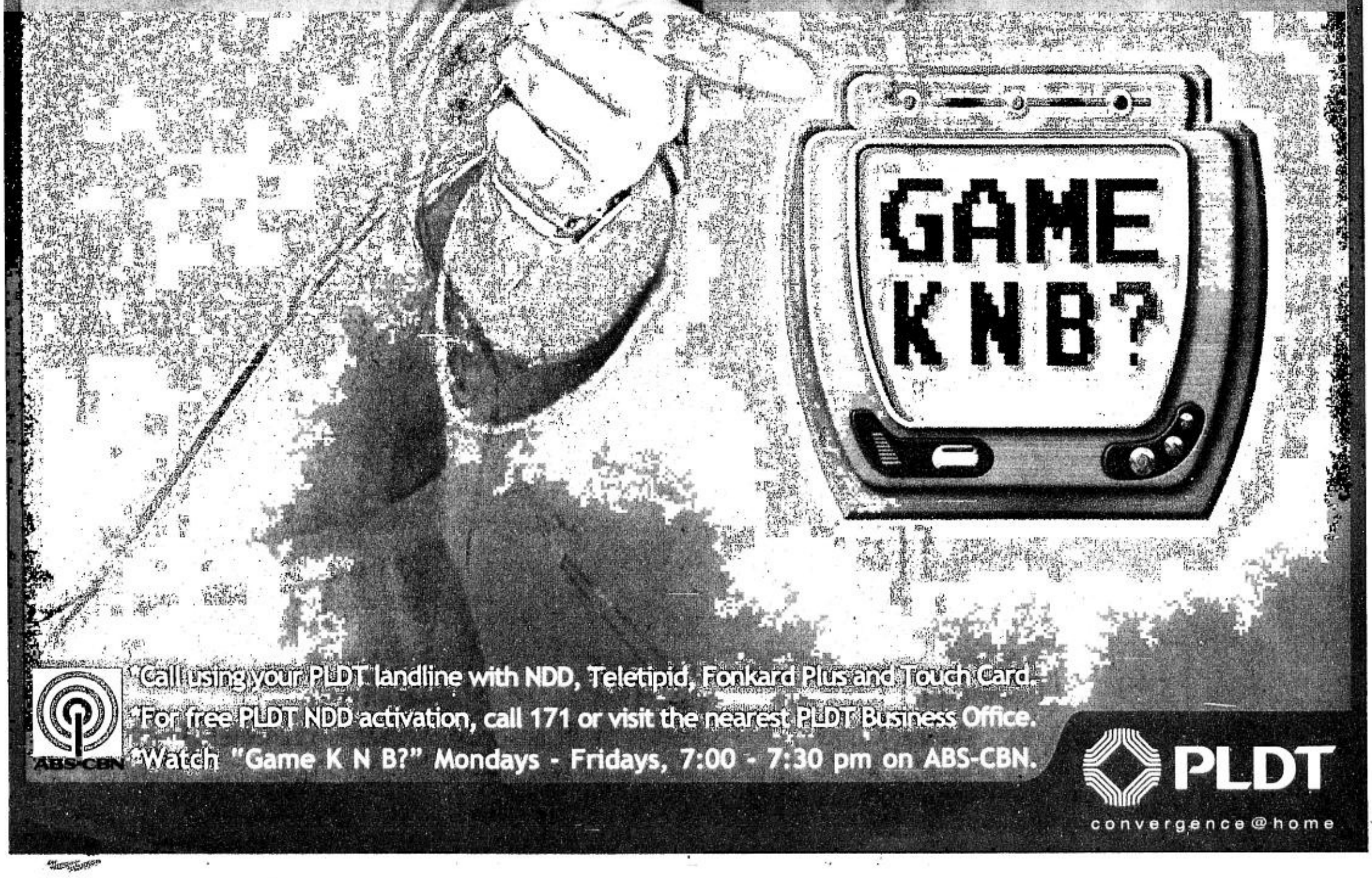
Bguio, Btangas, Bcolod, Btuan.
Game K N B i-dial ito?

PLDT PREMIUM PHONE LINE

1•908•1
227•226
ABS•CBN

P 10/minute

Salamat sa numerong ito,
ang buong Pilipinas may
pagkakataong umasenso sa
pagsali sa Game K N B!



*Call using your PLDT landline with NDD, Teletipid, Fonkard Plus and Touch Card.
*For free PLDT NDD activation, call 171 or visit the nearest PLDT Business Office.
*Watch "Game K N B?" Mondays - Fridays, 7:00 - 7:30 pm on ABS-CBN.

ABS-CBN

PLDT
convergence@home

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

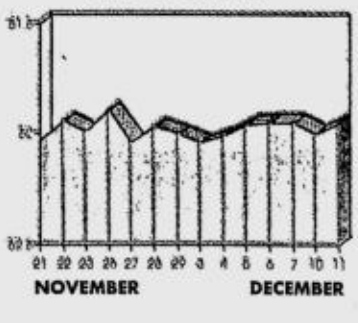
MOTOLITE
EXPRESS HATID
843-1111
Available in Metro Manila only

Moody's seen to upgrade RP credit rating

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.945 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 11, 2001

¥ 125.96 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 11, 2001

GOLD:$272.50/273.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 11, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end down

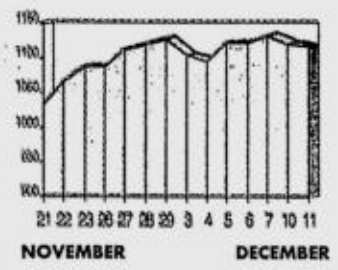
SHARES ended slightly lower yesterday in thin trade with investors continuing to cash in a few selected large caps that have posted recent gains, traders said.

They added investors appear to have decided to tread water for now while they await some expected year-end window dressing activity by fund managers.

"People are expecting some window dressing to take place next week and are holding their positions on expectations they could sell at a

STOCKS/ B4

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

MOODY'S Investors Service is expected to revise its outlook for the Philippine government from negative to stable in its upcoming review of the country's sovereign rating starting this week.

"I think that after everything we have demonstrated, there is room for an improvement in the outlook for our sovereign rating from Moody's," said Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who will meet with the representatives of the rating firm on Thursday.

Last April, Moody's snubbed the efforts of the Macapagal administration to put in place reforms and cited a "reemergence" of political uncertainties as a factor in retaining its negative outlook for the Philippines, a rating it handed out in November last year.

Another credit rating firm, Standard & Poor's, has also maintained a negative outlook for the Philippines last March, a follow-up to its October 2000 decision.

An upgrade in the sovereign outlook improves the chances of a positive adjustment in the credit rating in the future.

The Philippine government had been wanting to secure an investment grade rating from Moody's and Standard & Poor's whose current Ba1 and BB+ marks were both below such rating.

As far as Camacho was concerned, the government has already put in place at least two major legislative reforms such as the power reform law and the anti-money laundering law, has managed to instill fiscal discipline and has a good chance of reining in the budget deficit to its P145-billion target for this year.

Reforms in tax collection and administration that have long been postponed by the previous government were also implemented, Camacho pointed out.

"We also take pride in the style of management of the Macapagal administration and even international groups like Moody's, in my previous meetings with them, have acknowledged that things have changed," the finance secretary said.

More importantly, the political uncertainty that was a source of concern had been addressed, he added.

He admitted, however, that concerns of the global rating firms focus on how the Philippines would be affected by the weakness of the global economies.

Moody's and S&P have expressed concerns that the country might have a harder time to access foreign credit given a huge domestic debt and a strong dependence on exports.

Camacho pointed out, however, that out of its $1.4-billion foreign financing requirement, the government would complete $750 million in advanced borrowings for next year. This, he said, reduced the pressure for the country in raising funds.

The finance secretary also noted that JP Morgan Chase, in its most recent assessment of the Philippine economy, has called for a positive repricing of Philippine assets because of its improving fundamentals.

JP Morgan said that its positive view of the Philippines was based on a sound economic path being pursued by the Macapagal administration, its demonstration of fiscal discipline, and the economy's better-than-expected performance.

The US-based investment bank said that the country's fiscal and economic performance had "outperformed market skeptics."

Standard & Poor's was the first to downgrade its outlook for the Philippines to negative in October last year following the "juetengate" scandal that undermined the ability of the Estrada administration to pursue reforms and fast track growth.

Moody's followed after a week and European rating firm IBCA Fitch also handed out a negative verdict in January this year, days before the popular uprising that ousted Estrada and installed Ms Macapagal.

9-month dollar remittances weaken by 11%

FOREIGN exchange remittances from the country's overseas workers dropped by almost 11 percent in the first nine months of the year to $4.1 billion from $4.6 billion a year ago, documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

The BSP obtained its data from reports of banks and does not include the remittances deposited in dollar accounts here or those that were already converted into pesos through the money-changing firms.

The slower remittance in the first three quarters of the year was a strong indication that the full-year dollar inflow from the country's 1.93 million overseas workers would be lower compared with last year, a trader from a local bank said.

Foreign groups, among them Deutsche Bank, believed that dollar remittances of overseas workers would only reach $5.5 billion this year from $6.1 billion in 2000 and the projection, it said, was being shared by other members of the industry.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura admitted that the inflow from remittances might not be as strong as the previous year's because of a lingering global recession that could have affected even the country's service exports.

"We are living in more uncertain times and some of our OFWs may have been hit by the recession as some of them may have taken a wage cut," the central bank chief said.

The government is counting on the inflow from dollar remittances, which peak from November to the early months of the following year, to protect the currency against volatility.

However, the National Economic and Development Authority had estimated that net factor income from abroad, which includes dollar remittance and earnings from overseas investments, increased by 14.7 percent in the first nine months of the year compared to its level a year ago.

Unlike the central bank data that were based on reports of locally operating lenders, the Neda estimate was computed based on the number of OFW workers and their income that may not have been sent to their families here.

A trader from another foreign bank agreed that dollar inflow from remittances would be lower this year but other factors might buoy the peso below the 52-to-$1 level.

During the first semester, the dollar remittances of Filipino overseas workers only stood at about $2.7 billion.

9-MONTH/ B2

PASSION

16+ - 16.26% DP on the DLX Gas Model - the lowest yet!
8+ - P8,749 Low Monthly (48 months) on the DLX Gas Model[1]
10+ - As low as 10.48% Add-On Rate[2]
4 - Four Choices of Incentives for Cash Buyers
12 - Twelve models to choose from
1 - The Number One Selling AUV in the Philippines[3]

What can we say? Owning a Toyota REVO this Christmas is a jackpot! Enjoy your holidays with the best deals only the best-selling AUV in the country[3] can give!

Low Down Deal
Down payment as low as
P95, 600[4]
the lowest rate yet!
(Subject to bank approval.)

Low Monthly Deal
P8,749 for 48 months
on the DLX Gas model[1]

Cash Buy Deal
Cash Incentive, Accessories or Value Packages
Comprehensive Insurance[5]
Available to Cash Buyers at no cost

It's What Drives You.

TAMARAW FX
REVO

See flyers or visit your nearest Toyota dealer for details!

[1]Based on 50% Downpayment [2]Within 1 year payment [3]According to Campi, as of October 2001 [4]For DLX Gas model only [5]For the first year only

TOYOTA

TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0601 to 32 / 805-3643 / 866-3870 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 380-3273 to 74/ (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-8901 / 364-1547 / 364-4071 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7216 to 17 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7627 & 37 / (043) 723-7638 to 39 TOYOTA BEL-AIR, INC., 325 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 810-2222 / 819-7481 to 86 / 844-7926 / 845-3337 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sackle, Cabanatuan City (044) 463-8481 to 87 / (044) 463-8490 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / (08822) 858-7770 to 71 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M.J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8870 to 75 • Fax: (032) 345-8869 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 / 952-0762 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0951 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-4773 & 75 / (075) 522-0888 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-2994 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-8115 to 119 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 933-8631 to 34 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 / 816-1826 & 28 / 893-9476 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 00 / 712-0190 to 92 TOYOTA SHAW, INC. 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 to 24 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64 / 671-2014

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4174, Series of 2001

RP eyes more countertrade deals with China

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE PHILIPPINE government will send a team to China next month to explore more counter trading arrangements with Chinese firms, including a copper for coal swap with a major state-owned firm in the mainland.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said officials of the state-trading arm, Philippine International Trading Corp., has been tapped to visit Beijing in January to present countertrade opportunities with Chinese officials.

Roxas said among the Philippine products that the PITC would promote were copper, fertilizer, fresh and processed fruits, electronic and semiconductor materials.

This ongoing move to tap more countertrade arrangements with China was an offshoot of President Macapagal's state visit to China early this year.

Roxas expects these commodities and products to offset the anticipated influx of Chinese-made goods into the country especially with its ascension into the World Trade Organization and possible inclusion in an expanded Asean Free Trade Area. Roxas is particularly optimistic on the prospects of copper exports into China.

Roxas said he met with Shenhua Coal Trading Co. chair Han Jian Gou who has expressed interest in shipping its coal products into the country in exchange for copper.

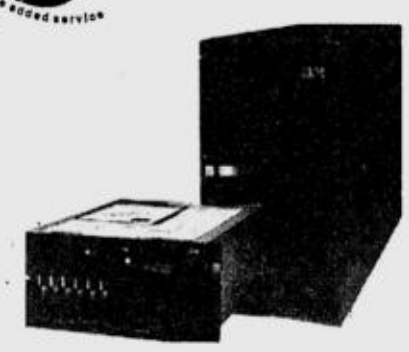
He described Shenhua Coal as a major state-trading firm in China with $6 billion in annual revenues which operates power plants in China with a total capacity of 50,000 megawatts.

Earlier, the Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. signed a $47 million countertrade deal for copper and coal with the China Minmetals Group, one of mainland China's biggest state-owned commodities importer and exporter.

Pasar will export at least 24,000 metric tons of high quality Grade A copper cathodes to Minmetals for one year; open up negotiations with National Power Corp. to facilitate the swap of Pasar's copper with Minmetal's coal; and closer cooperation in promoting each other's products in the Philippines and China.

Pasar vice chair Jose Leviste Jr. said Pasar decided to go directly to one of its biggest buyers in China in order to gain a competitive edge over its Chilean and Japanese rivals in accessing the only growing market among the world's biggest economies.

www.jrs-express.com
Worldwide Delivery
Tel. #8177714 • 8160282 • 8931605 • 6372065 • 2416350 • 8177719 • 6317351 to 56 • Fax: 6317357
E-mail: jrsmain@mozcom.com

Celebrating 20 years of value added service
20 YEARS WSI
Good things come in small packages
IBM

• Power to handle the enterprise computing requirements of small and medium-size businesses
• Flexible tower or rack-mount options for office environment, data centers and remote locations
• Advanced IBM @server technology for superior performance, reliability and systems management
• Powered by AIX®, the leading commercial UNIX® OS
• Call for a free demo at your office
IBM @server pSeries 610
What you need, where you need it
812-7666 and 810-9301
1 800 1 888 9301
Dealer inquiries are welcome.
sales@wsiphil.com.ph
Another quality product distributed by:
ENTERPRISE | HARDWARE | SOFTWARE
Avaya | Fujitsu | Autodesk
IBM | HP | Discreet
Lucent | Imation | Macromedia
NCR | Microsoft
OTC | NAI
Star
WSI is known for its excellent technical service.
Our team of engineers undergoes regular training and examination to enable them to provide better technical support. Aside from that, we also have available "loaner" / service units for our hardware products.
WSI Wordtext Systems, Inc. member: iVantage group
MANILA: 7/F SEDCCO 1 Bldg., Legaspi cor. Rada Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City, Philippines Tel. Nos.: 810-9301, 812-7666 Fax: 817-6430 sales@wsiphil.com.ph
CEBU: WSI TECHNOLOGIES, INC., Lyden II Bldg., F. Ramos St., Cebu City, Cebu Tel. Nos.: (32) 255-1012 to 14 Fax: (32) 255-1011 Email: wsitech@wsiphil.com.ph

FORD RULING

BOI undecided on FMC appeal for reconsideration

OFFICIALS of the Board of Investments are divided on Francisco Motors Corp.'s appeal to reconsider the agency's ruling that the Mazda B-series and Ford Ranger are different models.

A BOI source said some officials were open to the reopening of the case involving FMC's opposition to the sale of Ford Ranger pickups in the country, on grounds that it is basically the same as the Mazda B-series pickup that FMC has the exclusive right to assemble and market in the country.

However, the BOI source said the agency was likely to limit its review of the opposition to Ford's registration and that it would not touch on the dispute between FMC and Mazda on the alleged breach of contract by the Japanese automotive maker.

But BOI managing head Gregory L. Domingo said the agency would sustain its decision made in October 2000 that the Ranger and B-series have different specifications.

The BOI allowed Ford to sell the Ranger in 1999 only after FMC submitted a "No Objection Letter" because the government initially reckoned that the Ranger and B-series pickups were similar because they shared the same platform.

But FMC later withdrew its "No Objection Letter" after Mazda, which is 30 percent owned by Ford, did not fulfill its commitment to form a joint marketing firm with FMC in case Ford comes into the market before FMC's exclusive contract to sell Mazda expired in 2002. Mazda stopped sending the new models of B-series to FMC in order not to affect the Ranger's sales which led to massive layoff in FMC's Las Piñas plant.

Despite FMC's withdrawal, the BOI sustained Ford's registration as it issued a ruling that reversed its previous stand that the Ranger and B-series were the same models.

FMC is demanding at least $35 million in compensation from Mazda and it has asked the BOI to strictly enforce its rules and stop Ford from selling the Ranger here. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Gov't to pay SGS next year

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PHILIPPINE government said it would settle next year P3 billion out of its P6-billion debt to Swiss pre-shipment import inspector Societe Generale de Surveillance.

An official of the Department of Finance said Congress has approved the appropriation of P3 billion in the 2002 budget as part of its unprogrammed portion to pay half of its outstanding obligations to SGS.

But the official stressed that SGS would only be paid if there would be funds to support the P3-billion appropriation.

The Bureau of Customs has estimated that the Philippine government's obligations to SGS should be lower by about P500 million against the company's original claim of P6.4 billion.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, however, said the figures were still being validated by his department.

The SGS claims represent its unpaid fees for September 1998 to March 30, 2000.

As this developed, the government said it might conduct a bidding to subcontract the updating of its import valuation database. The bidding is expected to attract offers from existing pre-shipment inspectors.

The government wants to update the BoC's database to arrest the rising cases of technical smuggling through underdeclaration of import values.

The cost of hiring a pre-shipment inspector to update the database is expected to cost the government about 30 percent of the value of the entire pre-shipment inspection service.

SGS' 12-year, P30-billion contract with the government lapsed in December 1999. It was extended up to March 2000 but was not renewed as the government believed that the Bureau of Customs has the capability to conduct pre-shipment valuation by itself.

9-month . . .

(From page B1)

The Filipino workers' dollar remittances comprise a big portion of the country's gross national product, accounting for the usually half-a-percentage point difference between the gross domestic product and the GNP.

A healthy remittance level, according to the central bank, should be one of the factors that would help push not only the peso up but also prod economic growth while global economies slow down.

Although slightly lower compared to last year, Buenaventura said the dollar remittances should still help the Philippine economy cope with lower dollar receipts from exports.

Cordless is Panasonic
For clear cordless excellence, trust it to the expert. Panasonic. This premium line of cordless phones is packed with the latest features that guarantee all-time convenience, all time clarity.

KX-TC1005MLB
• Lighted Handset Keypad
• 11-Station Direct/ Speed Dialer
• Handset Locator (paging)
• 30-Day Standby Battery Life
• 10-Channel Auto Scanning

KX-TC1005MLN in Champagne Gold
• Lighted Handset Keypad
• 11-Station Direct/ Speed Dialer
• Handset Locator (paging)
• 30-Day Standby Battery Life
• 10-Channel Auto Scanning

KX-TC1025MLB
• Lighted Handset Keypad
• Simultaneous Key Pad Dialing
• Illuminated Talk Key
• 30-Day Standby Battery Life
• 20-Station Automatic Dialing

KX-TCM526BX
• Extra Range
• Digital Messaging System
• Simultaneous Key Pad Dialing
• Digital Duplex Speakerphone

Panasonic
For inquiries contact us at:
National Panasonic Sales Philippines
(Division of Matsushita Electric Phils. Corporation)
3/F Montivar Bldg., No. 34 Jupiter cor. Planet Sts., Bel-Air IV, Makati City Tels.: 899-4595 to 98 Fax: 897-4558

Ms. Helen Sia
Svenson Manager
STOP Hair Loss and Baldness at Svenson
Q. How does baldness affect a man's personality?
A. At Svenson, we've encountered bald men who wouldn't want to go out of the house because they thought that they will be looked at and ridiculed. They even walk with their heads bowed or covered because they're embarrassed about their baldness. Some find it hard to get a job or even a girlfriend because their baldness makes them feel much older than their years and saps their confidence. This is especially true for those in their 30's or 40's.
Q. How can Svenson help thinning and falling hair problems?
A. A treatment called Tricho-DHT Inhibitor from Svenson stops the production of Dihydrotestosterone (DHT), a hormone now widely acknowledged as the cause of hair loss. When used along with other Svenson treatments, hair stops falling and will become thicker.
Q. What can Svenson do about a bald spot?
A. Svenson International offers Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR), the most exciting development in hair replacement technology today. It looks and feels exactly like your own hair, even down to the texture and color of your hair and scalp. It is painless, totally secure and unnoticeable, even to a conscious probing touch. Aside from the usual shampooing and conditioning, it is maintenance-free. It gives the realistic appearance of hair growing from the bald area.
If you start noticing falling hair, dandruff, and other hair and scalp problems, do something about it now at Svenson.
Call or visit us now!
Svenson INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD
MAKATI Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St. 817-2260 817-2194
QUEZON CITY Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue 372-6531 372-6532
BINONDO Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St. 243-0128 244-8913
ALABANG Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd. 842-1389 842-4181
CEBU Keppel Centre, Cebu City 032-2340851 032-2340853
MON - FRI (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

IMF exec urges RP, others to speed up reforms

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

A RANKING International Monetary Fund executive yesterday said the Philippines and other crisis-stricken Southeast Asian countries must speed up the pace of financial and corporate restructuring to be able to reap the fruits of the expected rebound in the global economy by mid-2002.

IMF assistant director for the Asia-Pacific region Charles Adams told reporters at the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank economic outlook workshop that the Fund, which is it to release its latest global outlook next week, expected the world economy to expand by only 2.5 percent this year and next year, down from the earlier projection of 2.6 and 3.1 percent.

This was to take into account the further global weakening arising from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Adams said that based on the IMF's latest assessment, there would likely be visible signs of global rebound by the middle of next year. But asked about the countries affected by the Asian currency crisis of 1997 like Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and South Korea, Adams said it was not enough to simply await for the reversal of the global slump.

"These countries which are coming out of the crisis have had to deal with problems in their financial and corporate sectors. There's been different progress across the countries but in some of these cases, there's still a sizeable financial restructuring agenda that remains," Adams said.

"The important message that we want to convey is that we can talk about what's happening to the global economy—whether it is going to pick up mid-next year—but for countries to take advantage of the pick-up, they

IMF//B4

Remember what Mom said:
you won't grow strong without your greens

Dollar Investment Fund. The tasty way to get more greens.

Make your dollars work harder with Standard Chartered. Why stash them in savings, when you can trust one of the world's leading banks to invest them for you? Look around and you'll agree -- with its high earning potential, this fund's a healthy alternative to any dollar savings account in the market. Start today, and you'll be playing with the big kids before you know it.

You only need US$5,000 to start growing. Go on -- you know it's good for you.

Minimum holding period of 60 days, which easily matches your liquidity requirements.
• Current Indicative Yield at 5% p.a. • Rates may change without prior notice.

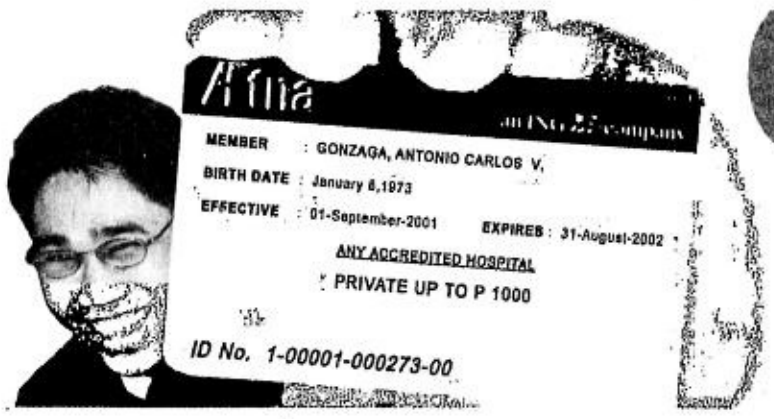
Call Phonebanking at 878-2888.

Investment funds are not covered by PDIC. Actual performance of the fund is for the client's account.

Standard Chartered

The Power of the Lion NOW in your Hands!

AETNA HEALTHCARE, INC.
Aetna Center 104 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City



Accepting Telephone Enrollment for Individuals & Families

Call 750-9000
or
1-800-1-888-9900

Website: www.aetna.com.ph

PNOC Coal earmarks P120M for exploration projects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PNOC Coal Corp. will set aside about P120 million for its capital expenditure projects next year, including exploration and mining activities.

PNOC Coal president Florante Navarro yesterday said the move was part of efforts to rationalize the functions of Philippine National Oil Co.'s subsidiaries.

Navarro said 22 percent or P26.5 million of PNOC Coal's total capital expenditures for next year would be used to finance three exploration and mining ventures in Mindanao.

These include projects in Lumbog, Zamboanga del Sur, Surigao del Sur and South Cotabato.

He explained that of the three, the Cotabato project was the biggest with potential reserves of 200 million tons.

The Surigao integrated project has a capacity of 40 million tons while the Lumbog project has 3.1 million tons.

Navarro said the coal coming from the projects would be sold in raw form or blended with imported coal for power generation or cement manufacturing.

"We have a number of cement plants in the Rizal province and in Mindanao to which we can sell local coal," he said.

Also, PNOC Coal was looking into an increased production of its coal briquettes.

The company president added that PNOC Coal would spend next year P86 million for its operations and P5.8 million to expand the production and promotion of its Grilla coal briquettes.

In an earlier interview, PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan said the state firm would rationalize its subsidiaries to avoid overlapping of activities.

Cunanan explained that rationalization was needed to let the subsidiaries concentrate on their respective fields of expertise.

"For instance, PNOC Exploration Corp. has a coal minemouth project when PNOC Coal should be taking care of that," Cunanan pointed out.

PNOC Exploration has a coal mine in Isabela province near which a coal-fired power plant would be built.

BA suspends services from Manila to HK, Taipei

HONG KONG—British Airways yesterday announced that it would suspend its services from Hong Kong to Manila and Taipei from March 4, 2002.

THE DIFFICULT market conditions forced BA to suspend certain operations in the region.

The move forms part of a series of measures being undertaken by British Airways to survive the downturn in the airline industry in recent months.

Mark Russell, general manager of British Airways for East Asia, said "the current difficult market conditions for the whole aviation industry means that we must take firm action in order to protect our business. Despite the suspension of our flights to Manila and Taipei, British Airways remains committed to maintaining our network in Asia. We will continue to offer our passengers efficient and convenient services to and from London to these destinations through connections to our one-world alliance partner over Hong Kong."

Services affected by the suspension are the four-times-a-week flights between Hong Kong and Manila, and the three-times-a-week flights between Hong Kong and Taipei, operated by British Asia Airways.

Passengers who have already booked to fly with British Airways on these routes after March 4, 2002, will be automatically transferred to flights operated by British Airways' one-world alliance partner.

Russel said the airline would keep these routes under constant review and would consider resuming services when market conditions improve.

RELIEF FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY

BoC slaps P20.60 duty on cement

THE BUREAU of Customs started collecting last Monday the P20.60 per bag tariff imposed by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on imported cement to provide relief to the ailing local cement industry.

Customs Commissioner Titus B. Villanueva issued Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 38-2001 yesterday directing all BoC district collectors to carry out the DTI order. The tariff will be in the form of a cash bond.

"It is hereby directed that all importation from all countries of gray Portland cement of all types, including Portland cement that contains pozzolan, slag or other additives, whether in bulk or bags shall be imposed, in addition to taxes and duties and other charges, a cash bond amounting to P20.60 per 40-kilogram bag or its equivalent in bulk," the CMO stated.

For its part, the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA) expressed confidence that the BoC order would help speed up the recovery of the cement industry, and that the bureau would be able to effectively enforce the DTI-approved tariff.

"Given the commissioner's excellent track record in terms of revenue collection, we are sure that the bureau will implement this crucial safeguard measure diligently," said Angelito Mendoza, Executive Council for Labor of the FTA, a broad coalition of labor, business, and agriculture groups and other nongovernment organizations advocating fair trade in the Philippines.

Earlier, Villanueva was commended by President Macapagal-Arroyo for exceeding the BoC's collection target for January to May this year despite the lower volume of imports during the said period. He was also responsible for intensifying the bureau's overall efforts to crack down on technical and outright smuggling.

The FTA also commended Villanueva for the BoC's swift response to the Department of Finance's instructions pertaining to the collection of the P20.60 cement tariff. As stated in the CMO, Villanueva officially received the DoF's directive only last Dec. 6, but was able to issue the corresponding BoC order last Monday.

"This is yet another indication of government agencies working together for the benefit of the Philippine economy in general and the welfare of Filipino workers in particular," Mendoza said.

Stocks . . .

(From page B1)

better price next week," AsiaSec Equities analyst Oliver Plana said.

He added that a possible central bank rate cut this week was unlikely to perk up much buying interest.

The bank has indicated it has the scope to further reduce rates if the US Federal Reserve goes ahead with an expected 25 basis points cut in its own Fed funds rate.

"The last few rate cuts did not have much of a bearing on the market and I do not expect if a cut does happen this week that it will have a big impact," he said.

The main index finished down 4.27 points, or 0.38 percent, at 1,116.56 points.

Turnover was sharply lower at P231.55 million from P381.6 million on Monday...

KGI Securities sales head Fitz Aclan said a Fed rate cut could spur some light buying interest on anticipation the central bank will follow suit, but it will be short lived.

"We could slide to around 1,100 points (on the main index) in the near term . . . but some expected window dressing could assist us to run-up to 1,200 by the end of the year," Aclan said.

Elsewhere, there were light gains by selected blue chips with good liquidity, sound fundamentals and good economic prospects next year.

Reuters

IMF exec urges RP . . .

(From page B3)

should have domestic reforms to strengthen their financial and corporate sectors so that they could make the best of that recovery," he stressed.

In the case of the Philippines, a new wave of default risks is weighing down even on investors' best bets among local banks four years after the Asian currency turmoil.

"The situation in Asia doesn't just depend on the global economy. It depends on what these countries themselves do, and for countries where there's still need for substantial financial and corporate restructuring, these must be continued and these countries will be in better situation to take advantage of the rebound," he said.

He said the impact of the Sept. 11 attacks on Asia would be on shrinking exports as a result of the weakening of the global economy. But he said he couldn't say whether the Southeast Asian region, as a whole, would be insulated from a recession.

"There's already marked slowdown in Singapore, in particular. Malaysia is quite weak, and across the sub-region, growth has slowed. There clearly are risks to the world economy," he said.

"We're projecting and hoping that the world economy picks up next year. If that recovery comes later or is not as strong, that will imply a weaker situation. There are certainly some risks but I wouldn't cast them as to whether there will be recession or not."

In the case of the Philippines, Adams said there would be moderate growth for this year and next year.

Asked about the impact of the debt servicing woes of Argentina, Adams said: "Generally, what's happening in Argentina, where the spreads of secondary debt have gone up, you haven't actually seen a big spillover of that even within Latin America, much less to Asia."

Adams said the global financial markets have now factored in Argentina's debt woes, although he cited that the jitters have affected countries with ballooning budget deficits like the Philippines and Indonesia.

"Within Asia there was a little bit of a spillover and you saw spreads go up a little bit in Indonesia and the Philippines as these are the countries where fiscal issues have come out, but overall, no big negative spillover to the financial markets," he said.

Adams also said the monetary easing adopted by the different countries was appropriate in view of declining growth.

The BMW 325iA Convertible

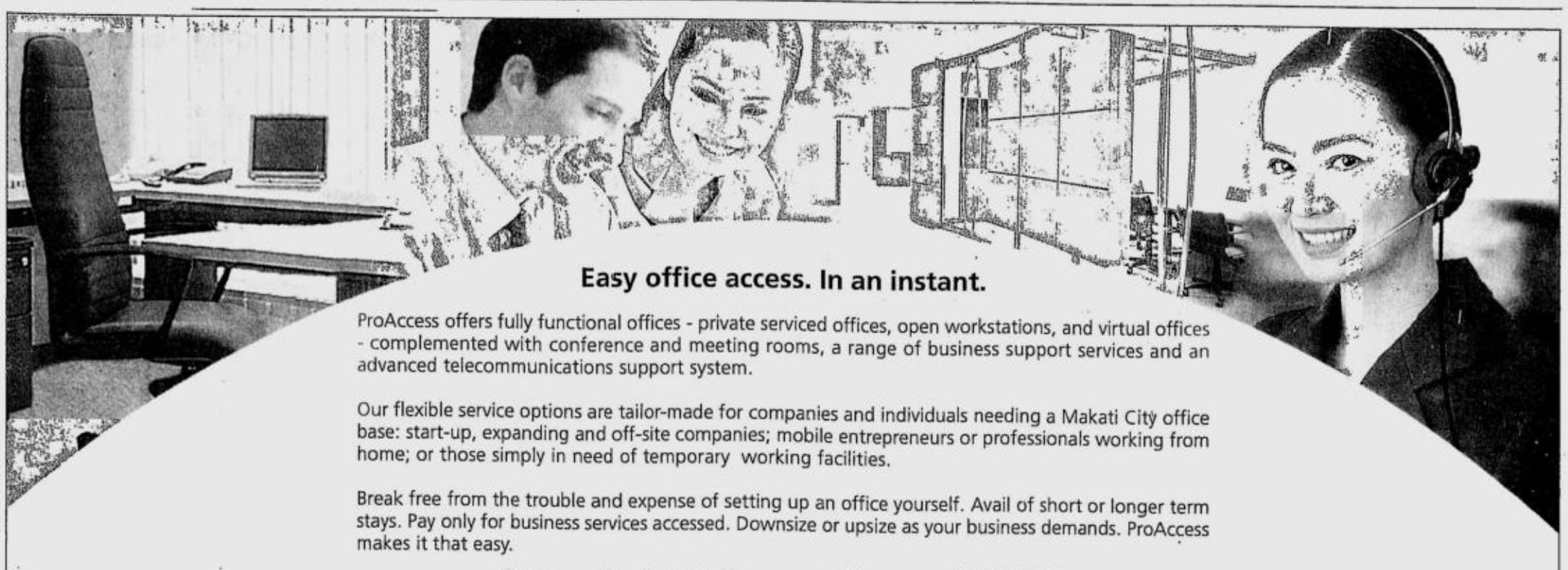
With its silky smooth 6-cylinder engine and the instant promise of alfresco motoring, the 325iA Convertible* is a truly exhilarating driving experience. Now, the Prestige Makati Preferential Financing Package enables you to have it home for the holidays, with generous terms including 20% down and P69,021.00** monthly for 48 months. So go ahead, seize the day and don't let this head-turner become the one that got away.

Similarly favorable offers are also applicable to the BMW 325iA Coupe, Touring, and Sedan, but all are only valid until December 31, 2001. Call or visit Prestige Makati and book a test drive now.

*Actual unit may vary slightly from photo
**Subject to bank approval

Prestige Cars Makati, Inc.
Everything BMW.
2324 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City, M.M.
Tels. 892-8127 to 29

Prestige Cars Makati
Preferential Financing Packages
The Ultimate Driving Machine



Easy office access. In an instant.

ProAccess offers fully functional offices - private serviced offices, open workstations, and virtual offices - complemented with conference and meeting rooms, a range of business support services and an advanced telecommunications support system.

Our flexible service options are tailor-made for companies and individuals needing a Makati City office base: start-up, expanding and off-site companies; mobile entrepreneurs or professionals working from home; or those simply in need of temporary working facilities.

Break free from the trouble and expense of setting up an office yourself. Avail of short or longer term stays. Pay only for business services accessed. Downsize or upsize as your business demands. ProAccess makes it that easy.

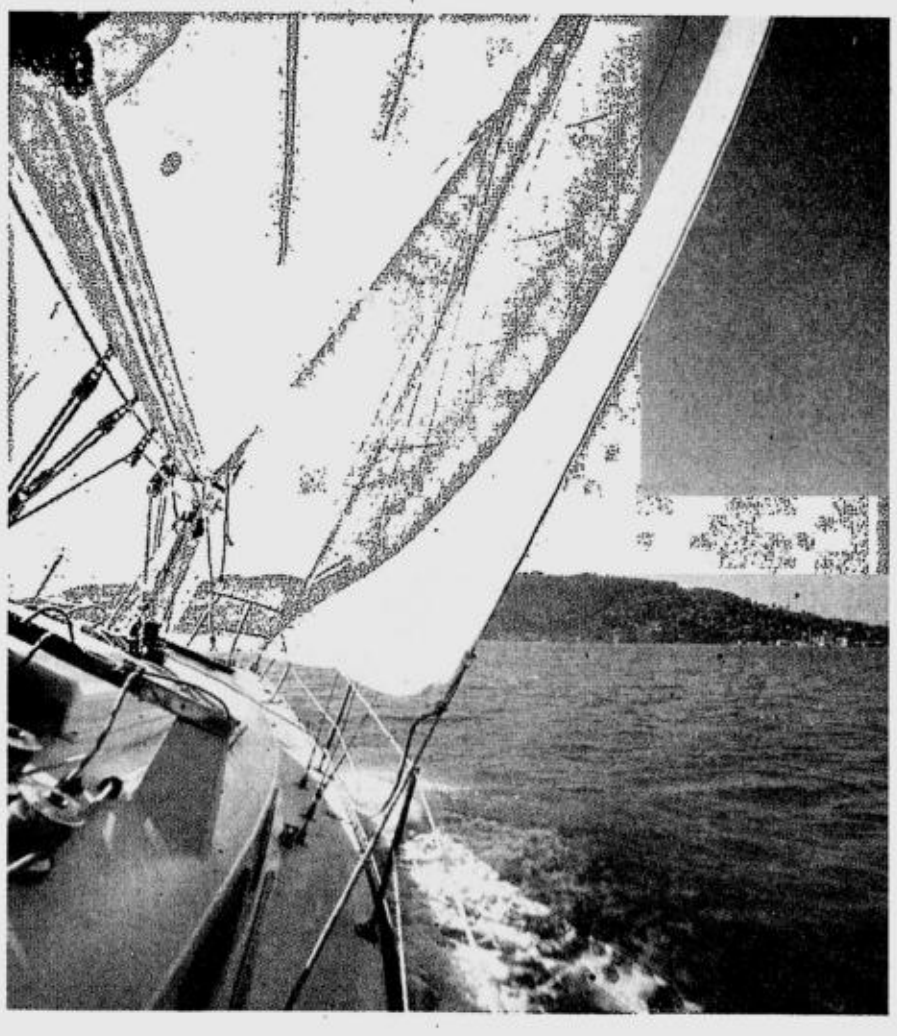
ProAccess. Your instant office access. Call us now at **757-8000**

proAccess
SERVICED OFFICES • VIRTUAL OFFICES • BUSINESS CENTER

1100 88 Corporate Center, Valero cor. Sedeño Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 • Telephone: (632) 757-8000 • Fax (632) 754-8000 • Email: info@proaccessph.com

No more compromises. Live your life now.

With the BMW Flexible Finance Package.



Success has come to many. Now it's high time you enjoy the BMW fascination with special flexibility. With the BMW Flexible Finance Package the ideal combination of flexibility and control is guaranteed: as low as **P25,500** per month, for 48 months and **35%*** downpayment plan. In addition, individual financing can also be offered – perfectly meeting your very own requirements.

If you want a 35% down payment with 48 months payment scheme, this is how it would look.

Model	Retail Price	Downpayment	Net Monthly Amortization
*BMW 316I	P 1,575,000	P 551,250	P 25,500
BMW 318Ia	2,015,000	705,250	30,800
BMW 318Ia Exec	2,165,000	757,750	35,800
BMW 325Ia	2,600,000	910,000	43,000
BMW 325Ia Exec	2,700,000	945,000	46,000
BMW 523Ia	3,095,000	1,083,250	50,000

Subject to bank approval

Adapt the terms to fit your requirements. Contact any authorised BMW dealer today. Promo good until **December 31, 2001**

BMW Flexible Finance Package

www.bmw.com.ph

The Ultimate Driving Machine

Participating Banks: Union Bank • BPI Family Bank (until November 30, 2001)

Authorised BMW Dealers:
Prestige Cars, Inc. 184-A E. Rodriguez Ave. Libis, Quezon City•Tel Nos. 638-07-34 to 43•Fax 438-04-19 **Prestige Cars Makati, Inc.** 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension Makati City•Tel Nos. 892-81-27 to 29•817-80-49•Fax 816-73-25
Wheels, Inc. 222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. Quezon City• Tel Nos. 721-84-77•721-84-39•411-35-80•Fax 727-63-37 **PGA Cars, Inc.** 201 EDSA Mandaluyong City• Tel No. 724-09-84/ 727-03-86•727-03-81 to 85 727-03-88 to 89•Fax 727-03-90

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3778-Series of 2001

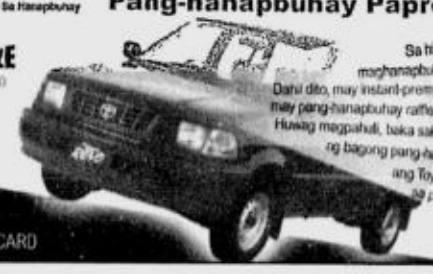
October 27, 2001 to January 31, 2002

BAGONG TAON, BAGONG HARI NG DAAN

Pang-hanapbuhay Papremyo ng Seaoil

SEAOIL
Kabalikat Mo Sa Hanapbuhay

1ST PRIZE
1 TOYOTA REVO DLX DIESEL 2000 MODEL



Sa highway ng buhay natin,
maghanapbuhay habang nag-si-Seaoil.
Dahil dito, may instant-premyo scratch card ka na,
may pang-hanapbuhay raffle coupon ka pa!
Huwag magpahuli, baka sakali ikaw na ang manalo
ng bagong pang-hanapbuhay na hari ng daan,
ang Toyota Revo DLX Diesel,
at pagdating ng bagong taon

SCRATCH CARD

Simple lang para manalo!
1 Ang promeryo ito ay para sa mga customers ng Seaoil Petroleum Ang participating outlets ay nasa Metro Manila at provincial stations na magsumula ng October 26 2001 hanggang January 31 2002
2 Sa bawat P500-halaga ng binili Seaoil fuel Produkto lubricant o Seaoil Pahang items mag-ing sa isang bilhan o di kaya sa-mpong mga resibo ng pagbili, sa loob ng promo period makakakuha ang customers ng isang gatin card

INSTANT PANG-HANAPBUHAY SCRATCH PAPREMYO:
3 I-scratch ang tatlong silver squares sa card Ang lahat ng scratch cards ay may security code May premyong makakuha kung may kumukuha sa alamang mga kombinasyong ito:

3 Seaoil logos= 1 Seaoil Special Prize
1 Produkto logo = 1 Seaoil Premyo item

4 Sa pagkaka-ng matsat na premyo kailangang i-surrender ang scratch card pasion sa Station Office-in-Charge para ma- validate
5 Ang lahat ng instant scratch-card prizes ay dapat ma-claim bago ang March 31 2002 Ang premyong hindi na-claim sa duration na ito ay matatalang na forfeited pabor sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, sa prior approval ng DTI
6 Ang mga nanalong game cards na may wrong combination at authenticated security codes lamang ang pwedeng manalo Hindi dapat tanggalin ng customer ang laten sa "VOID IF SCRATCHED" panel Ang alamang game card na may tuning na nasira, pinakuliman gaya bunga sa alamang, pasan, o may di mahalang security code ay agad na itutuing na null and void

PANG-HANAPBUHAY RAFFLE PAPREMYO
7 Dapat ang pangan ng raffle entry para mai-zsali sa raffle draw Sa raffle pasion ng game card ay dapat-nalat ng customer ang kanyang pangalan address telepono at lagdaan at ilulog sa designated drop box sa participating outlet o di-kaya ilagay sa legal sized white envelope at ipadala ang anyong entries sa:
"Bagong Taon, Bagong Hari ng Daan"
c/o Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office
GF Mandaluyong Building 29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
8 Ang deadline ng pag-submit ng entries ay sa January 31, 2002 hanggang 6 o clock ng gabi
9 Ang raffle ay gagawin sa February 8 2002 sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office GF Mandaluyong Building #29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills San Juan Metro Manila, in the presence of a DTI representative, para sa mga sumusunod na prizes
First Prize - 1 Toyota Revo DLX Diesel 2000 Model(excluding all registration requirements)
Second Prizes - 3 Kawasaki HD-125CC Motorcycles (excluding all registration requirements) para sa 3 winners
Third Prize - 5 Internet Highway-Ready PC's para sa 5 winners complete set ng monitor cpu cd-rom and modem
Consolation Prizes - 10 Mobile Phones (Nokia 3310, units only) para sa 10 winners
10 Ang mananalo ng lahat ng raffle prizes ay pakiusapan ng registered mail Sa pag-claim ng premyo, kailangang mag-presenta ng kahit na anong valid ID (company o school ID, passport, o driver's license), at kailangan din ipakita ang natanggap na registered mail
11 Ang lahat na raffle prizes ay transferable request hindi sila convertible to cash Seaoil Petroleum Corp ang magbabayad 20% tax sa lahat ng premyong higit sa P 10,000
12 Ang mang-customer ay pwede lamang manalo ng isang beses Kung sakaling may dalawang beses ang kanyang pangalan makakuha nya lamang ang isang premyong may mas malalang halaga at mag-do-draw sa pasa sa bandawang premyo
13 Ang lahat ng nag-valuating premyo sa draw ay pawedang ma-claim sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation Head Office, GF Mandaluyong Building #29 Annapolis Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila mula 9 00 a.m. hanggang 5 00 p.m. Lunes hanggang Biyernes
14 Kapag hindi na-claim ang nyong premyo sa loob ng 90 araw-mula sa araw ng notification, ang premyo ay ituturing na forfeited pabor sa Seaoil Petroleum Corporation, sa prior approval ng DTI
15 Ang lahat ng raffle draw winners ay dapat samang ayon na makanan o di kaya magbigay ng letter para sa kaishalang announcement-of-winners proof ng Seaoil
16 Ang lahat ng empleyado ng Seaoil Petroleum Corporation mga sales companies nito Masterminds Asia Communications mga suppliers ng Seaoil at mga Seaoil dealers, at ang kanilang mga kamag-anak hanggang sa second degree of affinity or consanguinity ay di-kawalipakalo sa pagsali sa scratch at raffle promong na. [S]

2ND PRIZE
3 KAWASAKI HD3 125 CC MOTORCYCLES

3RD PRIZE
5 INTERNET HIGHWAY READY PC'S COMPLETE SET W/ MONITOR, CPU, CD ROM AND MODEM.

CONSOLATION PRIZE
10 MOBILE PHONES (NOKIA 3310, units only)

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO 3454 SERIES OF 2001

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, December 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	53.5	52.5	53	228,000
China Banking Corp.	580	580	580	580	100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	22	22.25	22	22	339,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	176	178	175	176	39,460
Philippine National Bank	54	54	53	53	66,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	20	20	20	20	500
Security Bank Corp.	16.75	16.75	16	16	79,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	14.5	15	14.5	14.75	86,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	80,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1350	1300	1310	140
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1180	1180	1170	1170	1,090
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	9,800
Diversified Fin. Network	5.1	6	4.05	6	20,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	1,420,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	580	570	580	500
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
Piltel	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.35	410,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	405	412.5	405	410	30,700
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.6	200,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	84,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.25	16,800
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32.5	31	31.5	1,036,900
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.54	1.58	5,003,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.85	180,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.9	1.92	1.88	1.9	2,461,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	70,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	75,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	306,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	16,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	24	24	4,000
RFM Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.08	2.1	1,042,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	42	41.5	41.5	165,200
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50	49.5	50	456,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.8	2,418,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	46,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	150,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	37,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	1	1	1	1	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	130,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.84	0.86	0.84	0.85	13,440,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	30,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	60,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	1,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	680,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	100,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	27	27	26	26	139,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	2,300,000
Ionics Inc.	7.2	7.2	7	7	368,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	1,010,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.36	0.36	5,330,000
Music Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.4	0.4	15,130,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.38	550,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	980,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	320,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	6,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.46	710,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	80,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	24.5	24	24.5	1,216,400
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.68	65,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	570	570	570	570	1,250
Jollibee Warrants	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10.25	10	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10	10	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.0065	0.0055	0.006	131,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.85	2,288,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	300,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	4,680,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	1,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	3,950,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.72	1.76	1.7	1.76	4,898,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	993,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	2.9	3	2.8	3	29,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	4,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	8,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	300,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	21,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	46,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	560,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	84,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	40,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.22	0.23	0.21	0.215	350,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	950,290	34,106,425.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	313,473,050	167,624,155.00
PRO	18,229,000	28,051,950.00
Mining	76,293,000	716,600.00
OIL	126,450,000	782,250.00
GRAND TOTALS:	535,395,340	231,281,380.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	448.14	UP 0.13
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,549.30	DOWN 7.12
PRO	499.28	DOWN 5.24
Mining	1,031.69	DOWN 2.69
OIL	1.86	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index696.22	DOWN 14.73	
Composite	1,116.56	DOWN 4.27

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 43; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 100; NO. OF TRADES: 1,856

CURRENCIES

Dec. 11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.122334	1.000000	51.9560
Japan	Yen	0.008908	0.007937	0.4124
United Kingdom	Pound	0.161134	0.143570	7.4593
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144074	0.128370	6.6696
Switzerland	Franc	0.674966	0.601395	31.2461
Canada	Dollar	0.711239	0.633714	32.9252
Singapore	Dollar	0.612595	0.545822	28.3587
Australia	Dollar	0.577927	0.514933	26.7539
Bahrain	Dinar	2.977173	2.652661	137.8217
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299290	0.266667	13.8550
Brunei	Dollar	0.610795	0.544218	28.2754
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000098	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.025595	0.022805	1.1849
UAE	Dirham	0.305646	0.272331	14.1492
Korea	Won	0.000882	0.000786	0.0408
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.891000	46.2928
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.455561	23.6691
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135832	7.0573
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.404318	21.0067
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.064751	3.3642
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022087	1.1476
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000460	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.149855	7.7859
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004444	0.2309
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005355	0.2782
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022087	1.1476
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.131337	58.7797

Digitel One earmarks ₱1B for expansion

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

DIGITEL One, the data services arm of the Gokongwei conglomerate, expects rapid growth next year and has earmarked more than P1 billion in capital expenditure to fund its projects.

These projects include the continuation of its Luzon-wide digital backbone and Makati fiber optic loop plus other data-related projects, Digitel One managing director Brian Go said in an interview yesterday.

He added that the data services firm posted a 100- to 150-percent growth in 2001.

"Growth won't be as fast next year because we're already bigger, but we still expect rapid growth," he said.

From a virtual unknown in the data services field, Go said Digitel One has already made a name for itself during the past year.

"We were almost non-existent before, but now we're recognized. (We're working on establishing) a presence in the corporate market, building a name that's nationwide," he said.

Digitel One corporate solutions division vice president Patrick Paul Palacios said their P1-billion capex will be used to continue their backbone and their fiber optic loop. They will be focusing on new product offerings as well.

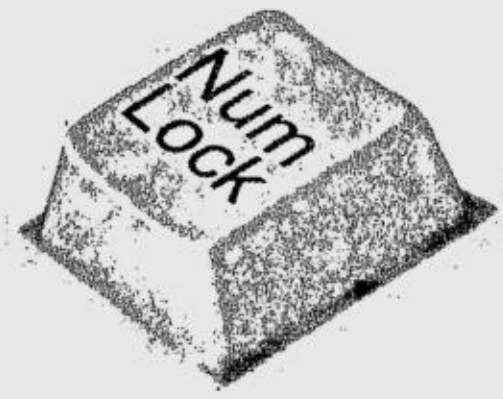
"We'll provide the facility for (our backbone) Digitel Crossing. Digitel One will be providing last-mile connectivity. We'll be focusing on new products specially on call centers," he said.

The Makati fiber optic loop and the Luzon backbone cost Digitel One about $40 million. This amount also included their already completed Visayas loop, Go said.

As for their new products, Palacios said these include the virtual IPLs (international private lines) aimed at start-up call centers.

With these IPLs, call centers do not have to lease the whole circuit unlike with fixed-cost private lines. They can get digital bandwidth-on-demand on a cost-per-minute basis.

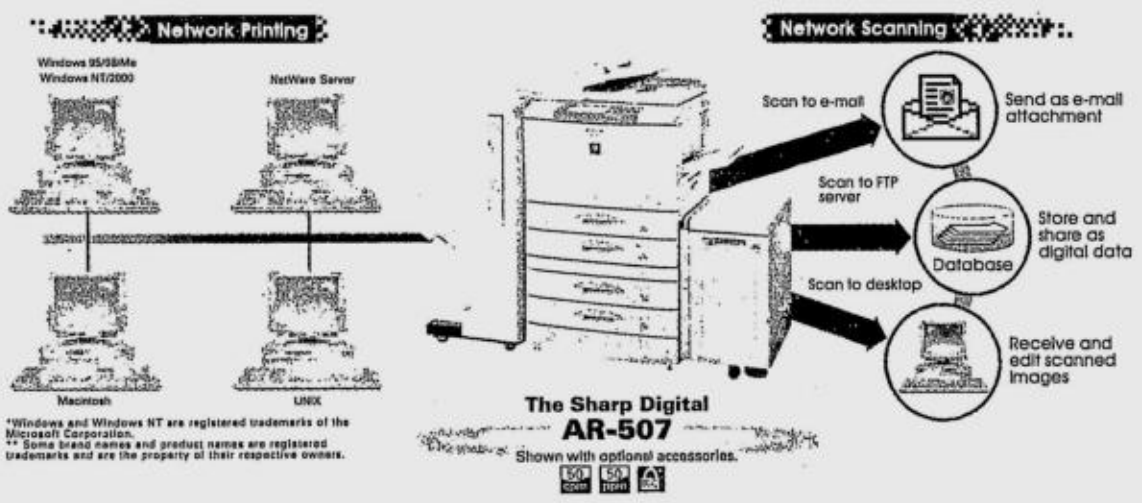
Go also disclosed that there would be synergy between Digitel One and the yet-to-be-launched cellular service of sister company Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.



What your confidential documents must have.

Sharp means file protection.

Prevent eavesdroppers from reading printouts of confidential documents and top-secret files. With Sharp Digital AR-507, simply enter your designated PIN (personal identification number) on your PC to protect files from others using the machine. Sharp's digital versatility allows printing of watermarks like "URGENT"or "CONFIDENTIAL" while its auditron tracks down the number of copies you make. Combine your workload - copy, print, fax, scan and edit printouts in just one productive machine and in high volumes. Tandem Printing doubles your output from 50 cpm/ppm to 100 cpm/ppm.
Shift to Sharp Digital now.



DATACOM SYSTEMS CORP.
MITSU MACHINE PHILS., INC.
SALES • SERVICE NATIONWIDE

SHARP
IMAGER
The Only Digital Copier You Need.

THE SOLE SOURCE OF AUTHORIZED GENUINE SHARP CONSUMABLES AND PARTS. IF IT'S NOT FROM US, IT MUST BE FAKE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OR CALL:
Sharp Copying Machine Center
65 Sen. G. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tels. 887-45-40; 844-42-42; 812-74-51
Fax: 843-4273
Web Site: http://www.sharpcopier.com.ph
E-mail: Info@sharpcopier.com.ph

CAMANAVA Branch:
215 McArthur Hi-way, Valenzuela City
Tels. 291-7328; 291-7334; 291-7343; Fax: 291-7335
LAGUNA Branch:
9049 National Highway Bgy. Turbina, Calamba, Laguna
Tels. 5459042 to 44, Fax. 5459045

EXCLUSIVE PROVINCIAL DEALERS:
DAGUPAN
CHIMES ENTERPRISES
Tels 522-5799; 523-6974
Branches:
• San Fernando La Union Tel. 888-5042
• Baguio Tel 444-9710
TUGUEGARAO
ALEJANDRA ENTERPRISES
Tels 844-2277; 846-9164; 846-2207; 844-0357; 846-3434
Branches:
• Cabanatuan Tel. 463-6225
• Isabela Tel. 682-2183
• Solano, Nueva Vizcaya Tel (078)326-7278
TARLAC
SAVERS MART
• Tarlac Tel. (045)982-4299
ANGELES CITY
SAVERS OFFICE AUTOMATION
Tel 322-0892
LAOAG
CASHMA COMPUTER
Tels. 773-1273, 773-2393
Vigan Branch (077)722-1455
BALANGA, BATAAN
PC COMPSHOP
Tels 237-2616; 237-2617;791-2050
BULACAN
BULACAN COPYNET
Tel (044)791-9082
LUCENA
C.A. COPY CENTER
Tels 373-3759 to 60; 710-4461
Branches:
• San Pablo Tel 561-1090
• Lipa City Tel. 756-6361
• Batangas City Tels 980-2760 to 61
CALAPAN, OR. MINDORO
DIGI COMPUTER LAND Tel. 288-5187
SAN JOSE, OCC. MINDORO
MINDORO ONE COMPUTER
TELS. 491-4314, 491-1039
CAVITE
ZEALCOM ENTERPRISES
Main Tels. 430-2340; 430-0942
Branches:
• Bacoor Tels. 417-4097; 417-4843
• Lemery, Batangas Tel. 411-2688
PALAWAN
DIMCO ENTERPRISES
Tels 433-4756; 433-4553; 433-7205
CAGAYAN DE ORO
DIMCO ENTERPRISES
Tels. 712-753;721-594
• Butuan Tels. 225-6599
• Surigao Tel. 826-8794
NAGA
SOFTMEG COMPUTER
Tels. 811-2917; 473-2633
LEGAZPI
ALL ELECTRONICS ENT.
Tels 480-6011; 480-6512 & 15
BACOLOD
NEGROS SATURN MARKETING
Tels 433-0101; 433-0108; 434-5668
ILOILO
COMPUTRON BUS. SYSTEMS
Tels 336-0816; 335-0632
DUMAGUETE
DREWXAN ELECTRONICS
Tels 225-1835; 422-7698
CEBU
TRISALES BUS. SYSTEMS
Tels. 253-0797; 254-7275
Branches:
• Ormoc Tel. 561-3877
• Tagbilaran Tel. 235-4352
TACLOBAN
ELECTRO COMPUTER DATA SYSTEMS
Tels. 325-5904; 325-3604
DAVAO
DAVAO IMPORT DISTRIBUTORS, INC.
Tels. 222-2000 to 05; 221-3312
Branch:
• Digos Tel. 553-2493
• Tagum Tel. 217-3341
• Kidapawan Tel. 288-1300
• Gen Santos Tel. 552-8336
• San Francisco Tel. 839-0235
COTABATO
CONECO SALES Tel. 213-458
ZAMBOANGA
GOLDEN BELL COMMERCIAL
Tels 991-1065 to 69; 991-1136
OZAMIZ
KWIKLINK
Tels. 521-1688 to 89

SHARP CORPORATION OSAKA, JAPAN

Is this how you expect Christmas year after year?

1998 *1999* *2000* *2001*

NDC seen as gov't unit to own shares in PNB

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT may tap the National Development Co. as its investment vehicle in Philippine National Bank in the event that the Department of Justice bars the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. from converting its loans to the bank into shares.

In separate interviews, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and PNB chair Norberto Nazareno said the government might tap state-owned corporations like the NDC as an alternative.

"It could be the NDC or any government-owned corporation. It does not necessarily have to be a government financial institution," said Nazareno, concurrent PDIC president.

He clarified that the government would not infuse new funds into PNB should the debt-to-equity conversion plan—also dubbed "re-nationalization"—fail.

The NDC, investment arm of the Department of Trade and Industry, has been aggressive in recent financial transactions. It offered to issue P18 billion worth of bonds in behalf of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

CREDITORS INCLUDED

Benpres says it will change plan to repay $477-M debt

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc., a unit of Benpres Holdings Corp., said yesterday it was set to revise terms of a plan on how to pay its $477 million worth of debts to include the proposals of its creditors.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Benpres said Bayantel continued to hold discussions with its creditors.

"We confirm that Bayantel continues to be in discussions with its creditors," Benpres said in its disclosure.

"We also confirm that Bayantel will be revising the original debt restructuring proposal to incorporate certain comments of its creditors," it added.

Benpres earlier said it would not offer financial support to Bayantel, which was asking its creditors to restructure about $477 million worth of debt, $266 million of which was unsecured.

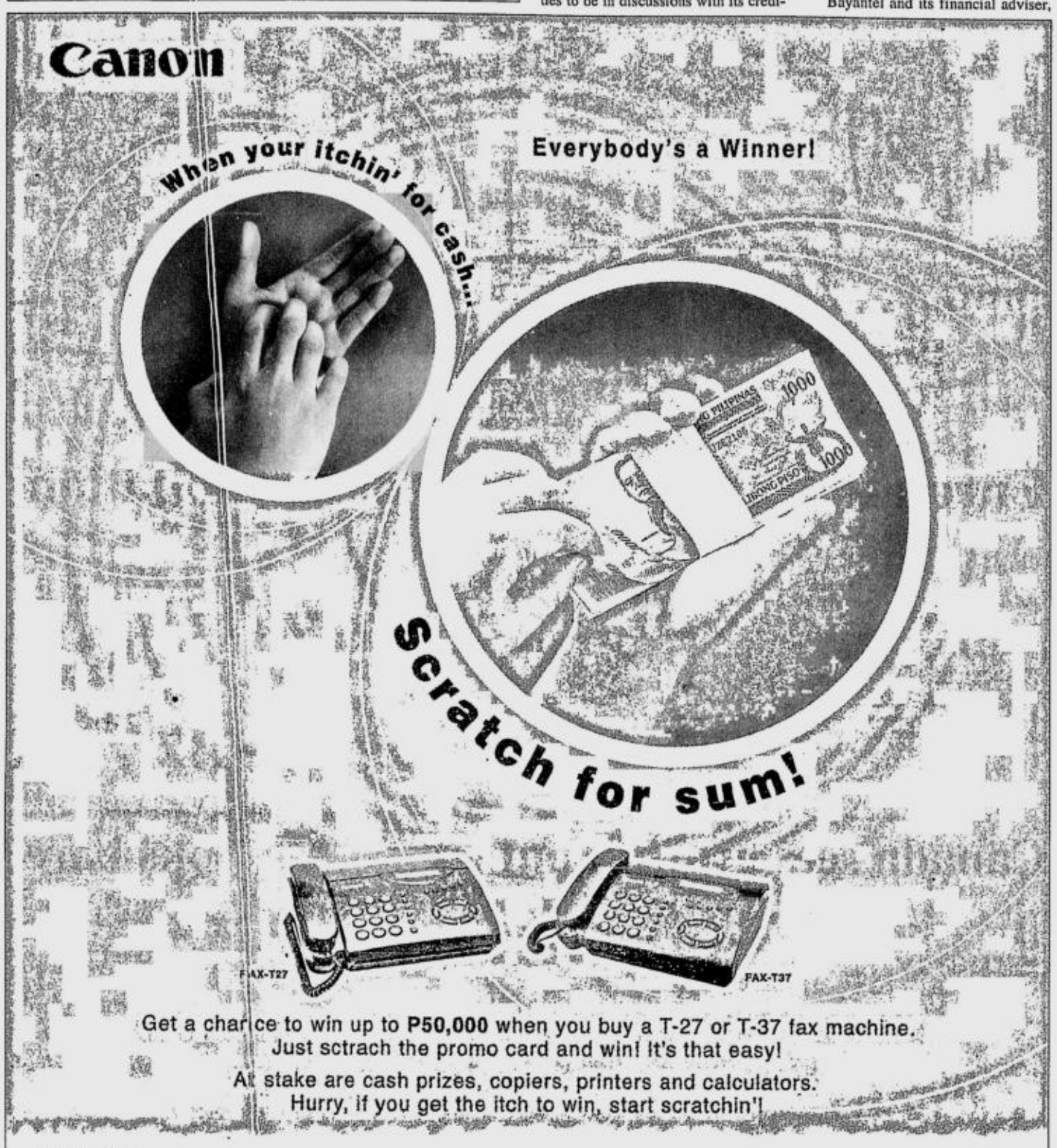
Bayantel and its financial adviser, Bank of America Asia, earlier proposed to unsecured creditors of Bayantel to write off 18 months worth of interest payments.

It also proposed a 15-year repayment of loans, including a five-year grace period on principal payments.

Proposed interest rates are three-month Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate) plus one percentage point for US dollar-denominated debt and 91-day treasury bill rate plus one percentage point for Philippine peso-denominated debt.

Bayantel has 34 local and foreign creditors.

Its creditor banks include Equitable PCI Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Bank of the Philippine Islands, United Coconut Planters Bank, Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, and the Export Development Corp. of Canada. *Reuters*



PROMO MECHANICS:
1. Purchase a T-27 or a T-37 Thermal Fax Machine in any of the participating dealers and get one (1) scratch card.
2. Rub off the scratch area to reveal the prize. Customers should scratch the silver coating of the scratch card in front of the sales person where the product was purchased.
3. Winners of the KC20 and LC210 Hi Calculators instantly receive their prize from the dealer.
4. Winners of other prizes should redeem their prize from Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc., Manila Head Office until sixty (60) days after the end of the promo period. Winners must bring the winning scratch card, official receipt, valid ID and warranty card.
5. The winning scratch card should be surrendered to the pertinent authority (dealer or CMPI) after receipt of the prize.
6. Only winning entries with authenticated security code will be honored.
7. Scratching off the "VOID IF RUBBED" part will invalidate redemption of the prize.
8. Non-cash prizes are not convertible to cash
9. Employees of CMPI, the advertising and promotional agency and participating outlets including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
11. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3718 series of 2001.

CANON MARKETING PHILIPPINES INC., MARVIN PLAZA BLDG., 2153 DON CHINO ROCES AVE., MAKATI CITY TEL. NO. 812-6047 / 8926449 FAX: 812-0067 E-mail address: info_sales@canon.com.ph

MASTER DISTRIBUTOR
• DIGITRON INT'L. SALES.- 643-3458 • NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 631-8051 to 60 • THE COMPUTER AUTHORITY- 637-8296 • PILIPINAS MAKRO- 870-3145/3165 • S & R PRICE 888-9433 • SOLID BUSINESS MACHINE- 241-4094 to 95 • ACROTECH- 743-2850/781-8245

SOUTH
SM SOUTHMALL •TCA- 800-0508/0512 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 873-3403 •ASIANIC- 805-4323 ALABANG TOWN CENTER •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE-CASA FILIPINA- 842-6188 FILINVEST •TCA- 850-3709 to 11 •WESTERN- 850-3746/3758 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 850-3578 METROMALL •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 873-6375 •HOMEWORKS- 874-0368/874-0092 SM SUPER CENTER •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 825-1356 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE SUCAT JAKA- 829 4901 to 03 •PILIPINAS MAKRO- 856-7461 • WESTERN CITIMALL- 512-9791/92 SM BACOOR •TCA- 046) 417-8020/0843 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- (046) 970-5480 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE-IMUS- (046) 875-4391 •PILIPINAS MAKRO- (046) 515-2222 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE COASTAL MALL 879-0241 to 45 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE-BINAN- (049) 411-4124 to 25 •CITISMART BATANGAS- (043) 778-1648

MAKATI
GLORIETTA •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 892-5768 to 70 PARK SQUARE •TCA- 810-6768 •ASIANIC •ANSON- PASAY ROAD 892-2208 •ANSON- LANDMARK 819-1513/8701 GREENBELT •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 812-3950 to 51 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE MRT AYALA- 752-8160 •VILLMAN COMPUTER- 843-4371/77 •VILLMAN COMPUTER- 815-1986/87 •VILLMAN COMPUTER- 892-2222 •BISMAC- 892-3355 •S & R PRICE- 888-0433 •OFFICE 1 SUPERSTORE- 890-5106 •MICRO PACIFIC- 840-4563/4595

ORTIGAS/SAN JUAN
•PSI-HEAD OFC 637-1205 SHANGRILA •TCA- 637-4163/41-0 2 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 633-4434 to 38 MEGAMALL •TCA- 634-2437 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 635-7025 •WESTERN APPLIANCES- 634-65-32/1733 ROBINSON GALLERIA •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 632-0554 to 55 VIRRA MALL •TCA- 721-2057 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 721-2447 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE SHAW- 631-5414 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE EVER ROSARIO- 656-6715 to 16 •OFFICE 1 SUPERSTORE- 634-2334

MANILA/CALOOCAN
•SOLID BUSINESS- 241-4094/96 •TIMES TRADING- 247-5741 to 50 •PILIPINAS MAKRO- 256-3186 SM MANILA •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 524-1815 •ASIANIC- 524-6079 TUTUBAN •TCA- 253-1444 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 253-1912 SM CENTERPOINT/STA MESA •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 716-1122 to 24 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE ROBINSON ERMITA- 536-7993 to 95 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE RECTO- 735-5831 to 36 •WESTERN RECTO- 711-5871/74 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE HARRISON PLAZA- 524-8871 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE RIZAL AVE.- 733-6258 to 60 •3 RAND CENTRAL •WESTERN APPLIANCES- 363-3823 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 362-845 •HOMEWORKS- 367-1774 •WESTERN CALOOCAN- 363-2917

QUEZON CITY
ALIMALL •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 911-1585 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE SUPERBRANCH- 911-2261 to 66 FARMERS PLAZA •WESTERN ANNEX- 911-2665 •WESTERN P. TUAZON- 911-5551 •VILLMAN COMPUTER- 912-2785/912-4531 •HYTECH- 413-6869/1449 G. PLAZA •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 945-1211 •PILIPINAS MAKRO CAINTA- 655-74-51 STA LUCIA MALL •TCA- 681-7335 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE KATIPUNAN- 925-1066 to 69 •VILLMAN COMPUTER- 433-1224/8566 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE QUEZON AVENUE- 372-3571 •OFFICE 1 QUEZON AVE.- 371 0205 •VILLMAN WEST AVE.- 373-9972/76 SM NORTH EDSA •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 927-7118 •ASIANIC- 927-0395 SM FAIRVIEW •TCA- 410-3512 •NATIONAL BOOKSTORE- 416-4953 •WESTERN COMMON WEALTH- 931-5996 •PILIPINAS MAKRO NOVALICHES- 930-2216

Promo period: November 15 to December 31, 2001

Agri sets investigation into tomato dumping

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has summoned local players in the tomato paste industry to verify dumping claims made by Northern Food Corp.

The move came after Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor ordered a full investigation into reports of dumping of imported tomato paste into the country.

Northern Food claimed the unregulated entry of cheap tomato paste from sources abroad had crippled its operations. It was also threatening to wipe out a P150-million industry, it added.

"This is an unprecedented case of an agricultural product invoking the Safeguard Measures Act," Montemayor said. "So we're giving the other parties a chance to air their side."

The 19 importers and 13 exporters of tomato paste would be asked to comment on a petition filed by Northern Food asking the government to impose general safeguards in favor of local goods.

Northern Food sought the agriculture department's intervention by invoking Republic Act 8800, also known as the Safeguard Measures Act.

This law allows local farmers, companies and industries to ask for concrete government measures to protect their products against dumping.

Northern Food, one of the country's only two surviving tomato paste makers, said imported tomato paste were being sold domestically at prices way below levels set in their home countries.

Northern Food said this had created problems for scores of contract growers in the Ilocos region.

Aussie insurer reports 40% hike in RP business

By Elena R. Torrijos

CMG of Australia said yesterday it posted a 40-percent increase in consolidated new sales from its Philippine life insurance, pre-need and health care businesses in the first 11 months of the year.

CMG president for the Philippines Shane McNally disclosed that CMG chalked up P452.62 million as of end-November from P321.8 million during the same period last year.

McNally attributed the higher results to an improvement in the effectiveness and focus of CMG's sales force resulting from some organizational changes, as well as some corporate alliances.

CMG earlier teamed up with Citibank NA in the bank's "Citiguard" product, which provided credit cardholders security in case of death.

McNally also pointed out that new sales accelerated rapidly from July to November to P257 million, up 67 percent from P154 million in new sales recorded over the same period last year.

"The fact that we have been able to make these improvements against the background of some fairly tough market conditions and to improve the quality of the business, makes the results even more satisfactory," he said.

"We have made significant gains both in our retail business, selling individual life, pre-need and health products, where sales are up 32 percent on the same period last year. We are enjoying the best sales results ever achieved by CMG," McNally said.

CMG is wholly owned by Commonwealth Bank, the largest financial services group in Australia.

In the Philippines, CMG is an integrated financial services provider of life insurance, pension and education plans, and health care.

CMG currently has offices in 24 strategic locations across the Philippines. Life insurance accounts for roughly 43 percent of CMG's new sales, while pre-need plans and health care products account for 30 percent and 27 percent, respectively.

Tuna export company plans China 'Jollibee'

By Joel B. Escovilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO City—A beleaguered tuna export company based here said it was serious in its bid to establish a food chain in China, in the tradition of Jollibee Foods Corp., to cope with increasing bank dues brought about by the global financial crisis.

However, instead of serving burgers, the Davao Agro Marine Resources said the China fast-food chain it envisioned would serve congee, with tuna as the main ingredient.

Domingo Ang, president of the Davao Agro Marine Resources, said the idea came up because of a slump in their tuna exports after the economy of their main markets, including the United States and Japan, suffered a slowdown.

He said Europe could become a potential market, but the enormous import duties slapped by some countries deterred them.

"One good market is China because of its huge population. If we make it in China, our factories will not stop working," he said.

Ang said his company would start promoting congee with tuna in China by next year.

The businessman has already started selling his tuna congee in his restaurant in Sasa. He said it was one of his best sellers here.

Ang said he hoped the congee idea would boost his company's financial conditions so he could start servicing his bank loans amounting to about P8.9 million.

Ang availed himself of the loan when he encountered liquidity problems arising from the slump in the demand for high-grade tuna.

Ang said at the Davao Fishport in Toril District alone, fish exporters suffered a 20-percent decline in the demand for high-grade tuna.

Phelps Dodge gets exploration permits

PHELPS Dodge (Philippines) Inc. has been given mining exploration permits to seek gold deposits in Quezon and Camarines Norte over the next two years.

Mining Tenements Management Division officer in charge Leo Jasareno said Phelps Dodge would undertake mining explorations in Del Gallego, Camarines Norte and Tagkawayan, Quezon for mining permit holders Kumakata Mining Corp. and Richgate Realty and Development Corp.

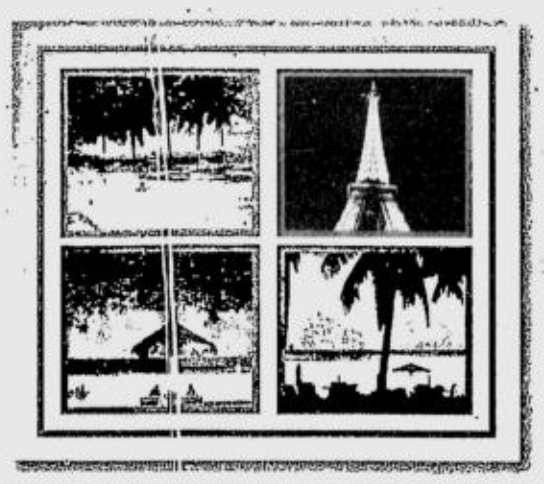
Phelps Dodge has signed working agreements with Kumakata and Richgate that will allow it to look for gold deposits in Del Gallego and Tagkawayan, and an option to venture into an operating-production agreement with the two firms.

The Philippines is one of the leading countries in terms of endowment for copper and gold. Another potential prospect is the Boyongan mine resource discovery that may produce porphyr copper-gold minerals in Surigao del Norte.

A joint venture team of Anglo American Exploration (Philippines) Inc. and Philex Gold is undertaking the Boyongan prospect in Surigao.

In the precious metals sector, the operating gold and gold copper mines include Victoria Gold Project (Lepanto Mining), Placer Mine (Manila Mining Corp.) and the Bulawan Gold Project (Philex Mining Corp.) *Christine A. Gaylican*

This Christmas, there's just so much to look forward to.



The Pan Pacific Bookings & Winnings

Aside from enjoying a most extraordinary Christmas, you also have the chance to visit some of the most exciting places on earth. Simply book a stay from December 1, 2001 to January 31, 2002 and you'll receive a corresponding number of raffle coupons. Hurry, book now! Because truly, this is the time to be merry!

THE PAN PACIFIC
Manila

M. Adriatico cor. General Malvar Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel.: (632) 536-0788; Fax: (632) 536-6220
e-mail: reserve.mnl@panpacific.com
website: http://manila.panpacific.com

Also brought to you by:
palau pacific resort · Continental Micronesia · Gulf Air · Fortana

This promo is exclusive for local residents, balikbayans and foreigners with Alien Certificate of Registration. See flyers for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0518, Series of 2001

NEWEST MEMBER

China pledges active participation in WTO

BEIJING—China, the 143rd and newest member of the World Trade Organization, pledged Tuesday to play an active role in the global commerce club as its membership formally began.

The stroke of midnight marked the end of a 30-day waiting period for entry, which started when a WTO meeting last month in Qatar approved Chinese accession.

It brought to an end a process of often torturous negotiations that began 15 years ago, before the WTO, which sets rules for global trade, even existed in its modern form.

In turn, China's WTO entry marks the beginning of a transformation that will see the world's most populous nation gradually open its markets to the full force of international commerce.

"China will take an active role in the new round of multilateral trade negotiations of the WTO and hopes to play a positive and constructive role along with other members," said a statement by China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation released by state media at midnight.

"This is a historic moment in China's reform and opening-up and the process of modernization," added a front-page editorial in the Communist Party mouthpiece People's Daily.

"It is an important opportunity to further encourage opening-up measures in a number of directions. It will have a very significant impact on China's economic development," Tuesday's editorial said.

Across a period stretching over several years, China will gradually remove many of the barriers to foreign trade and investment in the country.

Western firms will be able to gain a foothold in a series of previously restricted markets within China, including telecommunications, banking and insurance.

Tariffs on a huge range of foreign goods entering China, from agricultural products to autos, will be gradually reduced.

The process will take China further down the road away from a state-planned communist economy toward market capitalism.

Exactly where that journey will end, and what results it will have on the country and its people, remains to be seen, with the only consensus among observers being that the effects are likely to be dramatic.

Analysts say while some sectors of the Chinese economy, such as textiles, footwear and electronics, could gain under freer trading rules, in other sectors it could prove devastating.

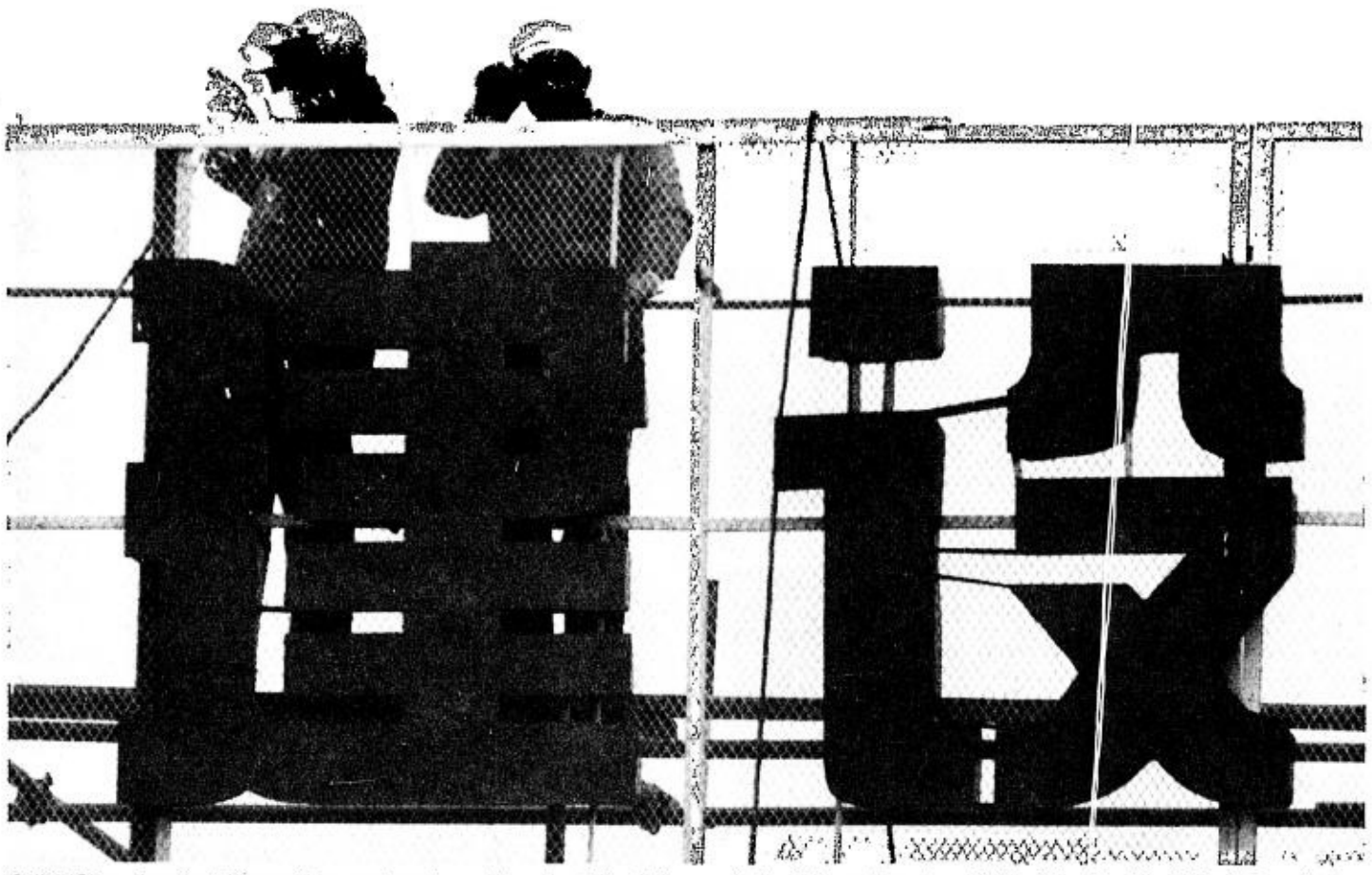
Banking, insurance and heavy industries such as steel and petrochemicals are expected to sustain heavy shocks as WTO rules come into force, allowing foreign firms to compete on a level playing field.

For China's estimated 900 million farmers, WTO entry could spell disaster as many of them eke out a living on inefficient smallholdings and are ill-equipped to compete with better quality, cheaper agricultural imports from developed nations.

WTO entry caps a memorable 2001 for China, which has already seen Beijing secure the 2008 Olympics and the country's footballers qualify for their first World Cup Finals.

After being unanimously accepted as a WTO member at the group's meeting in Doha, Qatar, last month, China pointedly rushed through accession protocols to gain entry before the end of the year.

China was in such a hurry to join, officials arranged for its legislature, the National People's Congress, to ratify the WTO decision on Aug. 25, months before it had even been taken. *AFP*



CHINESE workers install huge Chinese characters of "construct" at a Beijing work site. China on Tuesday officially joined the World Trade Organization after negotiating for 15 years. China has promised to open its market to foreign goods and services. While that promises more business opportunities, inefficient Chinese companies, especially farmers, are expected to be hit hard by foreign competition. AP

Blue Chip survey says recession to end soon

WASHINGTON—The US economy should pull out of its recession soon but the recovery may be lackluster initially, the closely watched "Blue Chip" economists' survey predicted on Monday.

"With surprising swiftness, the focus of discussion about the US economy has shifted from the extreme gloom that prevailed in the month and a half following the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks to rising optimism that signs of an eventual recovery are already beginning to emerge," a summary of the latest poll of economists said.

However, it added, "Whether the newfound optimism is misplaced or simply premature remains an open question."

Economists in the December poll by Blue Economic Indicators, a Kansas City, Missouri-based newsletter, projected that US gross domestic product would contract by 1.3 percent in the current fourth quarter.

While still recessionary, that projection is not as gloomy as the 1.9-percent decline predicted for that quarter in the November Blue Chip poll.

The newsletter noted that consumer spending has held up better than expected so far, portending a milder contraction.

A fourth-quarter GDP drop would mark the second quarter in a row that economic output has shrunk. GDP is expected to move into the plus column in the first period of 2002 but only marginally so, according to the poll.

In the latest poll, which was conducted from Dec. 3 to 4, Blue Chip pegged first-quarter growth at 0.4 percent, a notch lower than the 0.5-percent rise predicted in November.

The poll forecast growth of 2.6 percent in the second quarter of next year and 3.8 percent in the third quarter. Such figures would clearly be consistent with a recovery but not a particularly vigorous one.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, considered the arbiter of US business cycles, the US economy entered a recession in March, ending a 10-year expansion that was the longest in history. *Reuters*

Enron to feed Asia's fears of deregulation

SINGAPORE—The bankruptcy of US energy trader Enron Corp. will send a shiver of doubt through Asian nations looking to deregulate power markets, but it is unlikely to directly impact liberalization, experts say.

Analysts said Asia had little direct financial exposure to Enron, so any impact would be psychological.

But while Enron's quick slide from the top of the energy derivatives market to the verge of financial ruin may give fodder to opponents of power deregulation, it should not serve as a sign of things to come in Asia, they said.

"It's just like the California (power crisis) case, which was a valid concern and was created because of deregulation. But these problems are specific and do not point to a general weakness in this market concept (of liberalization)," said Robert McGregor, director of power and utilities corporate finance at SG Securities in Hong Kong.

Singapore has led a drive to sell off state power assets and set up an open market and is scheduled to start selling off the assets next year.

South Korea and the Philippines are also putting together plans to sell off state power generation and transmission assets.

Enron's collapse might raise concerns over possible consequences for emerging Asian markets, especially if the sophisticated US energy derivatives sector could produce such a corporate disaster, Khalid Rahman, Asian Development Bank's manager of the energy division for Western Asia, said.

"Enron doesn't pose any real danger to these markets, but it will fuel the fear that if this can happen in the US, what could happen here? The doubting Thomases will certainly be waving this case about when they oppose opening markets," Rahman told Reuters by telephone from Jakarta.

Enron filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States on Dec. 2 with debts of $17 billion, seeking protection from creditors on $49 billion worth of assets.

Japan could raise most questions about Enron, which was the only foreign firm to make any headway into the insular Japanese power market, potentially making it more difficult for other non-Japanese power firms to break into the market there, analysts said.

Enron runs trading operations in Japan and was considering construction of coal-fired power generation capacity, which was shelved.

The Houston-based company was also a leading power trader in Australia.

But elsewhere, Enron's loss was not expected to have a big impact on the development of fledging Asian power markets. Any worthy projects that Enron was considering would likely be taken on board by others, said Tatsuo Masuda, president at Asia Pacific Energy Research Center in Tokyo. *Reuters*

Canada sees growth, but cupboard looks bare

OTTAWA—Canada stepped up spending on security in its new budget on Monday but revealed an increasingly bare cupboard that left no room to pay down debt.

The budget, intended to rescue an economy struggling amid the global slowdown and rendered weaker by the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, promised two years of razor-thin growth even as it honored pledges to keep the federal government from sliding back into deficit.

"Prior to Sept. 11, the global economy had begun to slow down. However, the terrible events of that day made matters much worse and introduced a new level of uncertainty into the economic outlook," Finance Minister Paul Martin said as he introduced the hastily composed budget.

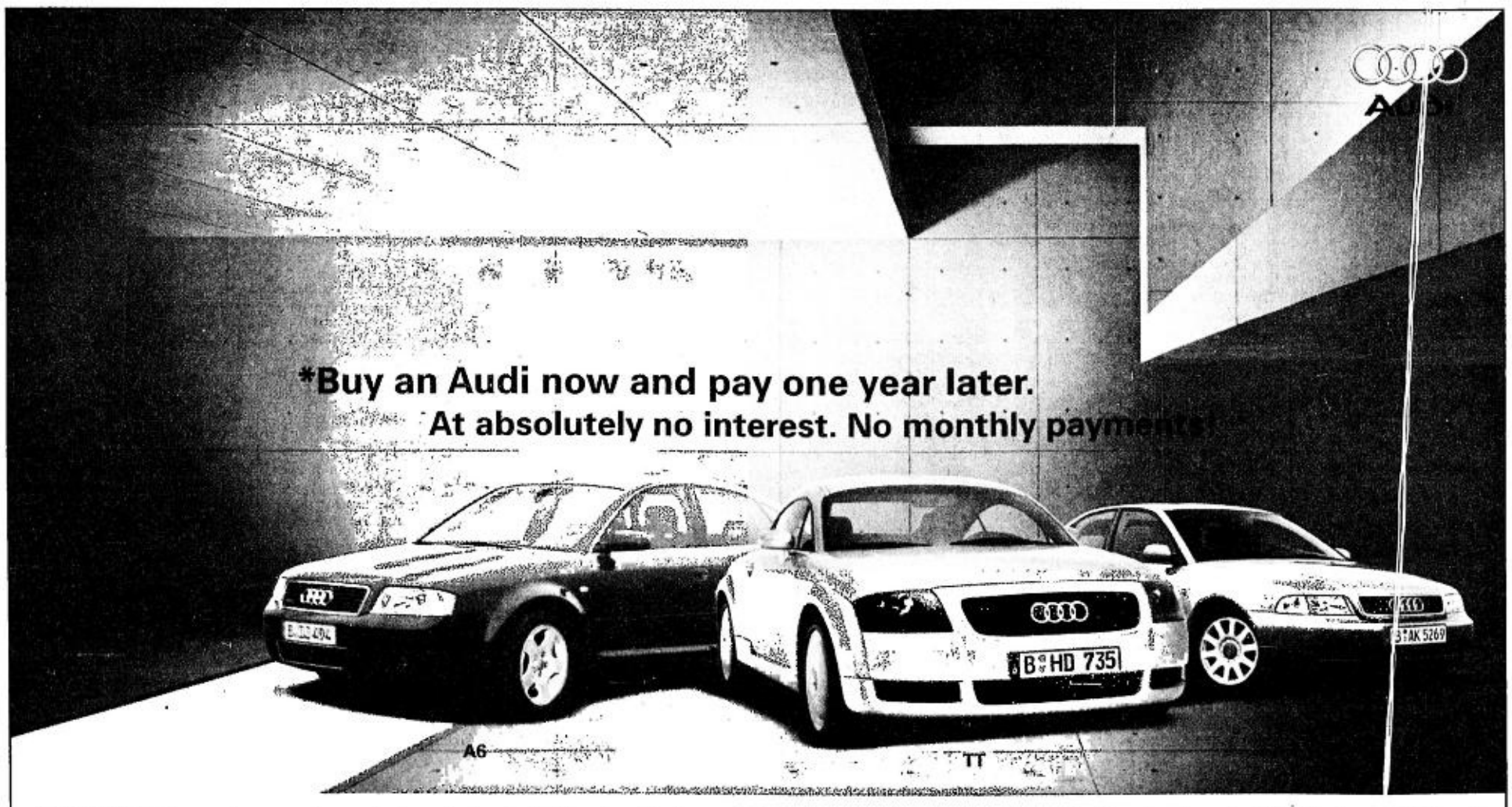
The plan kept intact tax cuts announced last year and outlined spending measures that would pump C$26 billion ($16 billion) into the economy this year, and C$31 billion next year.

That includes C$6.5 billion to make travel safer, keep violent groups out of the country, and secure the flow of goods across the Canada-US border.

But the budget reverses a tradition of recent years to maintain a rainy-day "prudence" fund. Martin said he would spend part of the contingency reserves this year and next in a balancing act to avoid a deficit.

"Managing an economy through tough times means striking the right balance. This budget does that," said Martin, who won plaudits for eliminating major deficits inherited from the previous Conservative government and for paying down debt—all the while running budget surpluses.

He said Canada would not pay down debt in this fiscal year after paying back a record C$17 billion last year. But the debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to fall to below 50 percent next year, its lowest level in 17 years. *Reuters*



*With a 50% downpayment, now you have a whole year to simply relish luxurious rides in your Audi. Because only at the end of the 12th month will you then be paying the 50% balance at 0% interest.

Audi Model	SRP	50% Downpayment	Balance after 1 yr.
A4 1.8 Automatic	P 1,794,000	P 897,000	P 897,000
A4 1.8 Turbo Tiptronic	2,104,500	1,052,250	1,052,250
A4 Turbo Tiptronic Avant	2,366,700	1,183,350	1,183,350
A6 2.4 Tiptronic	3,075,000	1,537,500	1,537,500
A6 2.4 Tiptronic Quattro	3,438,500	1,719,250	1,719,250
TT Coupe 1.8 180bhp	3,105,000	1,552,500	1,552,500
TT Coupe Quattro 1.8 225 bhp	3,427,000	1,713,500	1,713,500

*Subject to approval of participating banks (UnionBank, Insular Savings Bank and Asiatrust). **Promo extended until January 28, 2002.

Vorsprung durch Technik.
Advancement through technology.
www.audi.com.ph

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1731 Series of 2001
**Extension approved by DTI-NCR

CALL NOW!
AUTHORIZED DEALERS: Auto Prominence Corp. MAKATI: 2326 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City. Tel. No. 843-1195/843-1640/843-1649 Fax: 843-3641 E-mail: apcsales@audi.com.ph • CEBU: 38 Gorordo Ave., Cebu City. Tel. No. (032) 233-3568 Telefax: 233-5733 E-mail: apccebu@audi.com.ph

Daewoo stops output

SEOUL—South Korea's ailing Daewoo Motor Co. screeched to a halt Tuesday after its suppliers cut off parts and components to the automaker, demanding the repayment of $1.2 billion in arrears.

"We stopped production at all the three plants—Changwon, Kunsan and Pupyong—as suppliers refused to supply parts and components," a spokesperson for Daewoo Motor said.

"They are demanding the repayment of 1.5 trillion won ($1.2 billion) in arrears and the 126.3 billion won of emergency loans that Daewoo Motor's creditor banks have promised to extend," he said.

He said the suppliers were asking a payment guarantee of the unpaid bills to be included in the final deal to sell the automaker to General Motors Corp.

He stressed that there was little immediate problem in fulfilling orders as the company had two weeks stocks of completed vehicles and demand was usually sluggish in December.

"We are trying our best to settle the issue within two weeks so that we can proceed with talks with General Motors over the asset sale," he said. *AFP*

BASHING 'BIG MAC'

Brazil's golden arches sued

SAO PAULO, Brazil—It's Monday, 8 p.m., dinner time in Brazil. Only three cars are in line as John Rowell pulls in to check the day's receipts at his McDonald's drive-through in the eastern Sao Paulo neighborhood of Mooca.

Inside, just four tables have customers.

"Hard to believe I used to take 550,000 reals a month—and that was when one real was worth a dollar," grumbled Rowell, checking the till's computer printout. "Last month, we were down to 180,000 reals—now worth about $70,000—and it's not getting any better."

For many franchisees like Rowell, the McCarnival is over in Brazil—until recently the star emerging market for the world's biggest restaurant chain, McDonald's Corp. An economic slowdown and sliding currency are squeezing profits, and franchisees complain their sales are being decimated by a slew of new stores opened under the company's aggressive global expansion plans.

Some are suing McDonald's, alleging illegal rent manipulation and "cannibalization" of their sales by McDonald's own restaurants.

After years of blistering growth—from 175 restaurants in 1995 to 563 this year—Brazil is McDonald's eighth most important market worldwide. Until recently, the company was still planning to double its current number of restaurants here by 2003.

But now, with growth slowing worldwide, the Oak Brook, Illinois-based fast-food empire will add just 1,400 new restaurants to its 29,000 global total next year, the lowest number since 1994.

It has closed 250 under-performing eateries across the globe, including 56 in Latin America and 20 in Brazil.

It's a clear case of biting off more than it can chew, claims Rowell, a 59-year-old American who is leading the Brazilian franchisees' legal challenge.

When Rowell opened his 172-seat drive-through—the first of two McDonald's he runs—in 1994, company representatives told him of plans for another restaurant just over a mile away.

But on a recent Monday night, Rowell's pickup truck crisscrossed the neighborhood around his drive-through, showing a reporter 18 golden-arched restaurants that sprouted within a 3.6-kilometer radius. Only two are franchises, he says. The rest are owned by McDonald's itself.

"They flipped the burger," he said bitterly. "They're taking sales away from me. Things are so tight that it has become impossible to stay in business unless everything is going smoothly."

He argued that the bevy of McDonald's-owned restaurants located near franchisee stores "violates the essence" of franchisees' contracts.

Ronaldo Marques, communications director for McDonald's Brazil, insists the company is doing everything possible to help franchisees survive.

"We expanded to prevent other competitors coming in and if any franchisee is impacted, we will assist them," said Marques. "Franchising is our heart and soul and we will go the extra mile to support our franchisees."

One of the franchisees' big complaints has to do with rent paid to McDonald's. Rowell pays 21 percent of his sales to McDonald's in rent, while McDonald's pays the real estate owner 5 percent of takings. The arrangement is typical of McDonald's business model worldwide.

In 2000, McDonald's gave rent relief to the owners of 90 of 280 franchises, while this year, 180 of 264 franchises qualified, Marques said.

But Rowell's group argue that the rent relief is not enough to keep them afloat.

"I have the feeling they want to break me," said Jacques Riegler, who has four stores in the southern city of Curitiba.

Riegler predicted a number of franchisees, falling behind on their bank or royalty payments, would end up going "cap in hand" to McDonald's, which "will end up taking over the whole network for next to nothing."

According to Dick Adams, a former US McDonald's franchisee who now runs a San Diego-based consultancy called Franchise Equity Group, many Mexican franchisees hit by the falling peso in 1994 lost their businesses in a similar way.

Allan Hickok, senior restaurant analyst at Minneapolis-based US Bancorp Piper Jaffray, said McDonald's rapid overseas growth during the 1990s was good news. "But what we are seeing now is the dark side of international development," he said.

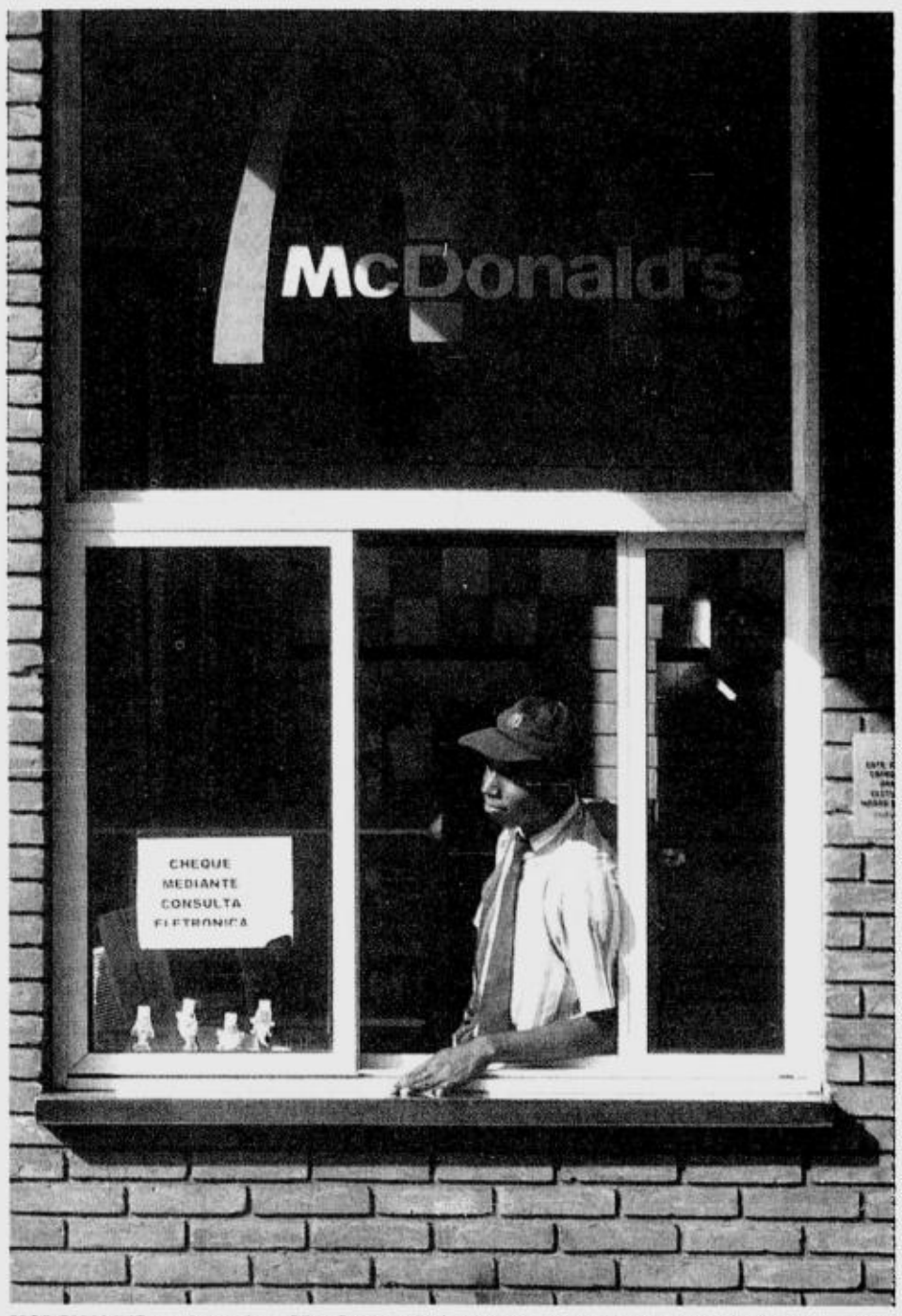
He stressed, however, that he did not believe there was "any nefarious design by McDonald's" to put franchisees out of business. "This is just a very tough situation," he said.

Marques agreed. "This is a business and business involves risk," he said.

According to Marques, there's still room for McDonald's to expand in Brazil.

Last year, the company sold $600 million in burgers, and from January to September this year, more than 422 million customers—up 6.5 percent from last year—ate at the golden arches.

"There is scope for geographical expansion, and there's still potential in places where we are already present," said Marques, comparing Sao Paulo's 180 restaurants with 255 in Miami, 331 in Los Angeles and 440 in Chicago. *AP*



MCDONALD'S employee Jean Silva Costa waits for customers at a drive-through window at an almost empty McDonald's restaurant in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Until recently, Brazil was the star emerging market for McDonald's, the world's biggest restaurant chain. But now, an economic slowdown and sliding currency are squeezing profits and storeowners say their sales are being decimated by the company's aggressive global expansion plans. AP

Qantas defies global trend with price cut

SYDNEY, Australia—Flying in the face of a global bout of airline downsizing, Qantas Airways announced Tuesday it would launch its new cut-price international carrier next year linking Australia with six Asian destinations.

But while the launch of Australian Airlines is bucking one global trend, it could be setting another, a senior analyst said.

Peter Harbison, managing director of independent consultancy, the Center for Asia-Pacific Aviation, said other carriers would likely copy Qantas.

"We're entering a whole new era in aviation, and we're learning from the experience of these cheap, cut-price operations, which have a very simple framework," Harbison told The Associated Press.

"In the medium- to long-term, it's inevitable" that most airlines will follow Qantas' lead toward operating budget services, he added.

Australian Airlines will initially provide nonstop return flights from the northeastern tourist city of Cairns to Osaka, Nagoya and Fukuoka in Japan as well as to Singapore, Taipei in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Australian Airlines chief executive Denis Adams said once its cost structure had been signed off by Qantas chief Geoff Dixon, the first four of the carrier's Boeing 767-300 aircraft should be in the air by August, 2002.

"The simplicity of the Australian Airlines model enables us to save significant costs compared to more traditional airlines," he said. "We have one aircraft type and one class of service."

The announcement came at a volatile time for the aviation industry in Australia and internationally, with the Sept. 11 terror attacks triggering a drop in passenger numbers and rise in security and insurance costs.

Some airlines have been forced out of business and others have laid off thousands of workers to survive.

In Australia, one small budget airline was taken over earlier this year and in September the nation's second largest carrier, Ansett, collapsed under the weight of massive debts and fierce competition.

The government has provided support to keep some Ansett planes flying while new investors work out a plan to return it full-time to the skies. *AP*

A HANDOUT artists' drawing shows a likeness of Qantas' new discount international carrier, Australian Airlines. AP

Japan offers rich pickings for foreigners

TOKYO—With the value of Japanese assets down as much as 95 percent from a decade ago, it has never been cheaper to buy a piece of Japan, US investor Wilbur Ross said Tuesday.

"There is an unparalleled opportunity for foreign companies to benefit here," said Ross, known in Japan for turning around a failed Japanese bank and nicknamed the "King of Bankruptcy" by Fortune Magazine.

"Japan has experienced an awful 10 years where asset values have declined from 75 percent for stock markets and real estate to as much as 95 percent for golf course memberships," he told a seminar for business executives in Tokyo

"Japan has the most outstanding potential for any major economy," said Ross, who has restructured over 200 billion dollars of defaulted companies worldwide.

In the United States, the average profit margin on sales for businesses is 6.5 percent. In Europe, it is 5 percent, but in Japan the margin is a mere 0.8 percent, underlining the nation's inefficient production base, he said.

"If Japan were to improve to just 50 percent of the EU margin, total company profits would triple. If Japan could achieve 100 percent of the US profit margin rate, profits would be eight times the present levels."

Last year, a US investment fund led by Ross bought failed regional lender Kofuku Bank Ltd, becoming only the second foreign firm to take over a bank in Japan. *AFP*

'Easy-to-use' companies lift 3Com earnings

3COM Corp. has announced new networking solutions designed to meet the unique technology requirements of growing companies with little or no technical staff.

As the world's preeminent networking specialist for small to medium businesses, 3Com delivers a range of new OfficeConnect and SuperStack 3 Baseline products that make it easier and more cost-effective for business customers to install their first network or improve their network's productivity.

Marketing analyst firm Cahners In-Stat ranks 3Com as the United States' No. 1 networking vendor for businesses with limited IT staff or no onsite technical support.

"Networking technology can help small businesses act more like big businesses, especially in difficult economic times, and capitalize on opportunities that go to those who respond quickest," said Kenneth Palacios, 3Com Philippines country manager.

3Com's networking products help entrepreneurs ensure reliable network connections with customers, partners, suppliers and employees at small offices and branch offices of larger organizations. The faster flow of information, sharing of files and improved response time—all enabled by networking—are the critical elements that boost business.

"Business customers tell us that they want higher quality products at a lower cost, which is exactly what 3Com provides," said Palacios.

"Businesses can buy a very affordable network from 3Com to get started and realize the benefits of networking technology. Auto-configuration makes the products easy to install and eliminates common cabling issues that take time to resolve. Businesses already using 3Com OfficeConnect or SuperStack 3 Baseline products can enhance their networks by increasing their capacity, adding comprehensive security and combining data and telephony to save costs."

WATCH MORE.
FIND MORE.
GET MORE.

A DVD-CDRW in one.
What more can you ask for?

1702AP Intel® Pentium® III 850 MHZ
256MB SDRAM
30GB Hard Drive
DVD-CDRW Combo Drive
56K modem/ Win ME OS
Built-in 56K V.90 Modem
Built-in 10/100 Ethernet PC Card
3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive
14.1" TFT Active Matrix Display
PhP 107,500

For fast service for your Compaq Presario Notebooks, call the
Regional Customer Call Center Toll-Free no. 1-800-1-651-1111
(Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) for next day courier pick-up and 48-hour delivery within Metro Manila

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS, INTEGRATED INTO SOLUTIONS & DELIVERED GLOBALLY

Call 848-1881 (Manila) or 1-800-1-651-1111.
Or email to callme@compaq.com.ph or buy online at www.compaq.com.ph/store
SMART cellphone users can now send inquiries via text.
Just type COMPAQ <YOUR MESSAGE> as a text message and send to 200.

intel inside pentium®III

Compaq PCs use genuine Microsoft® Windows®
www.microsoft.com/piracy/howtotell

PRESARIO RESELLERS: ABC COMPUTERS • ACCENT MICRO • CHALLENGER COMPUTER SUPERSTORE • COLUMBIA COMPUTER SUPERSTORE COLUMBIA SUPERSTORE • DISCOVERY COMPUTER SUPERSTORE • ELECTROWORLD • OCTAGON COMPUTER CENTER • PC LIVE • SILICON VALLEY • THE COMPUTER AUTHORITY • VILLMAN

©2000 Compaq Computer Corporation. COMPAQ and the Compaq logo Registered in U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Inspiration Technology is a trademark of Compaq Information Technologies Group, L.P. in the U.S. and other countries. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and SpeedStep is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Other products mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. Compaq is not liable for editorial, pictorial, or typographical errors in this advertisement.

COMPAQ
Inspiration Technology

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912 9008 11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter **P65** per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES 15 Annapolis, Greenhills Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Matrinco Bldg. 2178 P. Tamo 8175071

PERSONAL

COSMETOLOGY

FACIAL SKINCARE Training/ Workshop 8956031 L2011 OR 8971832

HEALTH/FITNESS

Slimming Program 521-9683

MASSAGE

JAMES M/F24 HRS SERVICES 8511883 100% HOSME

ASK BILL MALE MASSEUR 4108345 24 HRS SERVICE

BODYMYX (M) 8151168

BOYZ 2DMX 8348875

F-ESCORT-0916-4044479

H-H-MS Male 7314018

Male 16 Palanan 7320659

Male Masseur 4101234

M/F 432-0118 • 0918-7952811

•New Mabuhay Massage• Everyday Promo 421-5996

Pretty,European Girl 09192525922

SCENT'S & TOUCH 6540844

UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

24 HR /09173849954/MALE

BANAWE SPA M&F 7411426

CAIRO CARLA 716-4898

Edgar Reflex 7503640 HHS

Edward Reflex 7289285

Healing Touch Massage Bro. Allan 0919-2207320

Manhunt Massage 9162650

Reflex 09196658730/8445117

RFLX 09192395660/8891997

TUTORIAL LESSONS

•Adept Tutors @ 8833671

LA LUZ 5268216/70

MISCELLANEOUS

Accpt dance lesson9361039

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Avbl Hrdwrkng Maid From Province Call 291-4524 • 445-0513

BEST MAIDS 912-4701•9124706

Cook Maid Yaya Driver 8743305

GOOD MAIDS w/NBI 4218262

Good-Maid-Yaya-Boy 7570579

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

H'GIRL YAYA COOK 8708799

International Cook 8735271•8722792

MAIDS BOY DRIVER 8533504/8533505

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya 8720265•7722353•8429807

Prov'l MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY DRIVER 873-5062•871-2370

We have maids mwife PT hmecare 4141135/3664375

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313974

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT CHEAP 5220956

Lipat Bahay • 824-1227

LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

•LIPAT•731-6833

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 820-7068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

1511sqm 5BR 3TB Pool 4 Car Garage • 634-1212

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PASIG

★ NO DP ★ Mercedes 1.4M Grnwood 2.3M Presell-Grnwood P900T 30%DP Call 643-8927 • 916-4414

New H&L Ortigas C Terms 656-0771 / 655-4960 / 655-7974

QUEZON CITY

Proj 4 up/down 2BR 2TB 1carGarage 0917-8143792

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

SAN JUAN

LA892m² 5BRs 5TB Pool 4 Car Garage • 634-1212

PROVINCIAL

DAVAO CITY nr SM 245m² 3BR 2TB 2Kitchen w/Porch Grge,Tel, Call (082)2962381 C#0917-8452261 (02)7296190

OTHER AREAS

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btn-gas 6.5M 0917-8143792

LOT

MARIKINA

3km Only from ATENEO & up PROVIDENT VILL nr guard&gate choice lot 350m² 5T/m² Rush 9488240

PASAY

Roxas Blvd. 900m² 90T/sm Call 645-3731

QUEZON CITY

N. Domingo 1500m² 20T/m² Call 645-3731

Xavierville 925m² 18T/m² Call 645-3731

RIZAL

379m²SM alongHway 9403660

Oro Vista Royale with View 1.4M 6810610

Taytay 70sqm 09178174547

SAN JUAN

SAN JUAN LOTS 7272373

OTHER AREAS

Rush Metrogate Dasmarinas Cavite LA : 150 SQM P450T (NEG.) CALL MAR/MERCY 2946341/090163547821

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000
FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg, Esteban St, Legaspi Village, Makati City
871-8316 810-7297
872-7603 776-4604
829-5081 815-2144
810-8019 810-7183
Welcome Brokers & Agents write to forterealty@skyinet.net

LAS PIÑAS

BFR 3BR2TB 1.6M 8428853

MAKATI

Want a Makati Condo?1.5M 2BR 10%DP Lipat Agad 8674916 5758367 09192176735

3BR 2TB Condo Mdrm 92m² 4M Call 645-3731

C5 Nr The Fort 988T 10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD! Call 0917-8169849 • 148176984

MANILA

NEAR SSH'HWAY SAN ANDRES MANILA BnewTwnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge P2.695M up 8903461 loc 34

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% D/P "EZ" Term 9126976 ; 9124428

TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

MEMORIAL LOT

• Heritage Park • Resale Lawn, Estate 671-4421

RESORT

PasolHotSpring P7M 776-7507

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

49 Dunwoody (Behind UE) 2 BR U/D Call Tess/Buboy 0918-5312368 / 362-2813

MANILA

Studio Semi/Fully Furn. Malate Near DLSU 523-5465

PROVINCIAL

Baguio 2BR Rent nr. Brahm 5314911 loc.165 0919-5864465

HOUSE

QUEZON CITY

Ldys NR UP DILIMAN 5243126

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

ALABANG

ASPEN TOWER ALABANG 1BDR with Balcony Across Festival Mall P45T a Month T8071245

MAKATI

1,2BR 9652 Pililla Mkt 5218333

2BR 9650 Pililla Mkt 5218333

KWOOD Mkti 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 8996632 Irene

Mkt. Studio P8.5up Prkg 8906331

MANILA

2BR 1997 Paco 5218333

3BR 3sty nr. LSalle 8992148

MANDALUYONG

Wack² Heights 3BR w/pool gym sauna new 242-0922

PASIG

RENAISSANCE 2000 PASIG 100 SQ.M. 1BDRM F P30T A MO. T8071245

FOR LEASE

Warehse, P'que 310m² nr. Coastal Rd, NAIA 258-8019

ROOM & BOARD

W/Aircon&CR SAV Mkti 8992148

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

REAL EST. LOAN 524-3197

BUSINESS RENTAL

• Along Katipunan • Wplains Off / Resd'l P60Th/mo. 671-4421

Cml sp 9124664/09192554488

Coml, Res, Apt. T 6810610

East Capitol Dr. 140m² Workshop / Office 631-9771

Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m² 1st class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

PRIME QC OFC FOR RENT with elevator service 768 Edsa cor East Ave. Ideal for Beauty Salon / Travel Agency or Clinic. Available 58m² @ P249 Call Nestor or Lourdes 921-2788/ 922-4778

• Retiro • Gud 4 Store Nr Restaurant 671-4421

RESORT

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

FORD

F150 850T RUSH 826-9288

HYUNDAI

•96 Grace P210T 330-3315•

•98H100 P265T 927-6597•

KIA

96 Besta 2.2 180T 3303315

98Besta 2.7 252T 9276597•

98Pregio 3.0 320T 9276597

MERCEDES

•98 MB100D P368T 9276597•

MITSUBISHI

90 Pajero orig T-8705097

90s Camry USV Matic P255 86 MR2 USV 721-0317/4452

Lncr EL94 P163T Neg 2823818

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

NISSAN

00Safari16Tkm 1.18M 7432018

TOYOTA

TOYOTA REVO 1999 loaded 410T Call Celso 728-3011

OTHER CAR BRANDS

•98Topic 15str 225T 3303325•

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

BNEW VAN 8254058/8261045

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

BRIDAL CSTR CAR 8955627

CAR VANS 413-5383

HI ACE VANS 8252988

HONDA MB100 8908668

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

StarexMB100HiAce9483535

MB HiAce L3 Urvan 8257135

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

Van A1-Con 12Str 433-2161

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

X-Mas Cash Problems? Car Sangla • Instant! WHILE-U-WAIT Inquire: 9241254/ 9259121/ 9264160 We Also Buy Cars

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

SPORTING GOODS

20 BOWLING ALLEY US MAPLE GOOD 2ND 044-7915370 -MART

B.Table B/New w/Accessories • 8014494 • 8020566 •

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

SALE EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

WE BUY ROLEX 5633742 5646593 09174383744

MISCELLANEOUS

Executive Aircraft B55 BeechCraft Baron G Pass Fax 02 8509018 For Info

Photo Dev. Mach. 7111650

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

Garage Sale Sala/Dining Decors W.Pump • 634-1212

Hardwood Posts for Sale 3 to 5 inches diameter,9 feet long round eucalytus decay-resistant and insect-resistant treated posts. Only P300 per post. Art at 695-0345 or Clp at 9215770/0917-530-5555

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

CASHIERS for Immediate Hiring, College Level Call 8234573/74 Mon-Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

Domestic Helper 5623962

MALE/FEMALE

American Needs Tagalog Tutor See KENT Tues or Wed. between 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Universe Cyber Cafe SM Megamall 3rd Flr Silver Screen Movie Arcade Bldg. A beside Autostop or email kent 1935@hotmail.com

CARE GIVER T5280730

Motivated Seller Pacific Plaza Twr P21M/0917-8381928 750-0127/759-4091

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Specialized in USA/ Japan /Canada/ Europe & other Int'l Tourist VISA & Canadian/ Australian/ New Zealand Immg./ Student VISA Asst. Call Mrkn Main Office 934-2070/ 71/ 72 Mla Branch 522-8390/ 95

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Attn: Netwrk Mktg. Ldrs Great News! If Ur Not Earning Over 200T/m @ Ur Prsnt Core Bus. Let's Talk Now 807-2359 Resh

BAZAAR-MALL SPACES 4 RENT 633-9662 ★ 633-9295

EARN & TRAVEL 09196165084

EARN 15-20T PART/FULL TIME+TRVL & TRNG 8691108

EARN FR HOME 8531008/09178311728

Who Do You Know in Baguio? TRAVEL & EARN •0743002262 09175064388•

EARN XTRA 15T FLEX HRS+INTL TRNG+TRVL 8319269

LoseWeight &Earn09197772986

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

RTW P28up Wsale 727-4934

TShirts 0917-9976742

WANTED Wholesaler & Retailer Tel. 8202777/09198669171

Work from Home w/Travel Opportunities 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Omar A.Mustari was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc.#1128 Page#225 Book#V Series of 2001 of Not. Public Atty. Ombawa B. Madum Lanao Sur.
(PDI-Nov.28,Dec.5 & 12, 2001)

The estate of the late Basilia de Castro Fong was Extrajudicially Settled among her heirs Daisy DC Fong, Rossalia DC Fong, and Walter DC Fong on 11/16/01 under Doc. #35, Page#8, Bk#X, S-2001 of Notary Public Antonio Antonio G. Yao
(PDI-Nov.28,Dec.5&12,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that the following certificates of stock issued by Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. in the name of **Sonia G. Mathay**, Certificate of Stock Nos. 194, 195, 196, 197, 200, 214, 227, 240 and 273 representing a total of 54,683 shares have been lost. If no contest is received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Nov. 28, Dec. 5 & 12, 2001)

BELGOSA

BELGOSA MEDIA SYSTEMS INC, publisher and distributor of quality textbooks and scholastic enhancement materials, invites career-driven individuals to join us in our expansion program for Year 2002.

"World-class Educational Publications for Philippine Schools"

We are looking for qualified:

INDEPENDENT SUB DISTRIBUTORS (ISDs)

for operations in

Region I	Region IV	Region VIII	Region XII
Region II	Region V	Region IX	Region XIII
Region III	Region VI	Region X	ARMM
CAR	Region VII	Region XI	

We offer:

1. Professional marketing and advertising support
2. An opportunity to manage own business
3. Generous packages and incentives
4. Exciting promos
5. A chance to represent the best brands of educational materials
6. The chance of becoming a team member in achieving our mission in upgrading the quality of Philippine education.

We require individuals who:

1. has a marketing background or at least has an experience in retail distribution (but we will train neophytes)
2. has delivery vehicle which is definitely a plus (but we can arrange for vehicle rentals to those who do not have their own)
3. has an existing banking relationship with a reputable bank
4. are in good physical health and with good moral character

Interested?

Send your application letter and comprehensive resume not later than **January 07, 2002** to:

E-mail : bmsmnl@info.com.ph
Attn: ISD Processing
C/o Ben/Zet/Weng

Mail : ISD Processing
Belgosa Media Systems Inc
8/F PDCP Bank Centre
Herrera cor Leviste Streets
Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Telefax: (632)-8172136

Walk In : Personnel Department
Belgosa Media Systems Inc
8/F PDCP Bank Centre
Herrera corner
Leviste Streets
Salcedo Village
Makati City
Look for Ian or Jen
Telefax: (632)-8401775

POSSIBLE U.S. JOBS FOR NURSES

No Recruitment Fee • Direct Hire
(IMMIGRANT STATUS)
Pacific Home Health
Call **Leah**
Cel. No. **0917-475-7071** or **(072) 720-0280**

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

The Division of Cardiac, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is accepting applicants for **Subspecialty Fellowship in Cardiac Rehabilitation for Academic Year 2002.**

Requirements for Admission:

1. Candidate must have completed Fellowship in Cardiology in a PCC accredited Institution
2. Candidate must submit a research proposal related to the field of Cardiac Rehabilitation which must be completed during the prescribed training period and duly approved by the Office of Education and Research
3. Candidate must submit all the requirements for certification by the PSBIM

For inquiries, please contact the Office of Education and Research Tel. Nos. **926-9622** and **925-2401** loc. **3234, 3235, 3236** and **3237.**

Deadline for submission of application is **December 15, 2001.**

RISE GROUP OF COMPANIES
RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS ADVISORY

TO ALL OUR SUBSCRIBERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND BUSINESS PARTNERS:

In our relentless drive for continuous improvement to keep pace with the fast-changing technological environment so that we can bring and maintain consumers' empowerment and poverty alleviation in the forefront of our corporate action agenda, we have acquired new computer hardwares, softwares and systems, which calls for additional and bigger working space locations.

In this regard, we would like to inform you that for the remaining days of December 2001 up to December 15, 2002, we will be busy with the installations and adjustment activities as we transfer the facilities of our Information Technology Group (ITG) to its new office location at Unit 1709, 17/F Jollibee Plaza, Ortigas, Pasig City. Simultaneously, our NCR operations and Rise Finance and Management Corporation will be setting up office at the 8/F, Penthouse of Noah's Arc Building, Escolta, Binondo.

There will be a slight disorder as we engage ourselves with these improvements and adjustment activities. We, therefore, beg for your patience and kind understanding for all the inconveniences you may encounter during the said period.

Rest assured that we are doing all these improvements with the consumers' and subscribers' best interest in mind.

As we continuously affirm our commitment to you, we also make sure that such is guaranteed by our voluntary TRUST FUND mechanism being managed by United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB). Your welfare is our paramount concern.

Thank you very much for your continuous trust and confidence in us.

Rise Group of Companies
Rise E-Commerce Systems, Inc.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
₱230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

But the good deed through the ages
Living in historic pages,
Brighter grows and gleams immortal
Unconsumed by moth or rust.
— **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

In loving remembrance of the
1st Death Anniversary of

VICENTE "Inting" P. MANCAO

22 January 1924 — 12 December 2000

Loving husband and father, generous brother and uncle,
A man of peace and friendship,
of music and song, joy and laughter.
The Builder and Engineer, a man of work and service,
A man who cared for us all

A Eucharistic Celebration will be offered at
6:00 p.m., December 12, 2001
St. Joseph the Patriarch Parish Church, Mabolo, Cebu City

The family requests the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Gloria Caliboso Molina

April 12, 1952 — December 6, 2001

Her bereaved husband **Agustin B. Molina Jr.**; children **Noel** and **Jonathan**; mother **Juana Caliboso**; brothers, sisters and in-laws request their relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at their residence in Sacay Grand Villas, Kanluran Road, UPLB Campus, Los Baños, Laguna.

Interment will be held on December 14 at the Maquiling Memorial Park, Los Baños, after the 9 a.m. Mass at the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish Church.

LUISA "GAY" CONSUNJI VDA. DE GOPEZ

Peacefully joined her Creator on Monday, December 10, 2001 at the age of 90.

Her loving husband **Paulino Sr.** (†); children **Susan** and **Roberto** (†), **Ma. Luisa** and **Pastor Jr.** (†), **Orlando** and **Myrna**, **Paulino Jr.**, **Efren** and **Estrella**, **Angelo** and **Marivic**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 13, 2001 at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, after the 3:00 PM Mass.

The family of the late

ENRIQUE "RICKY" T. MENDOZA

who passed away on December 9, 2001 at the age of 32.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel 14, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue Quezon City.

Cremation is tentatively scheduled on Saturday, December 15, 2001 at La Funeraria Paz Crematorium.

VALENTINA RAMOS vda. de EUSTAQUIO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on 10 December 2001 at the age of 63.

Her husband **Leonardo** (†); children **Boy** and **Emy**, **Vivian** and **Joel**; grandchildren **Joshua** and **Justin**; brother and sister **Carol** and **Ric**, **Billy** and **Remy**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law **Ben**, **Fe**, **Caring**, **Vencio** and **Anching** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel 10, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Cremation will be on Saturday, 15 December 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

In Loving Memory
on the Eighth Death Anniversary of

BGen. JOSE M. CRISOL

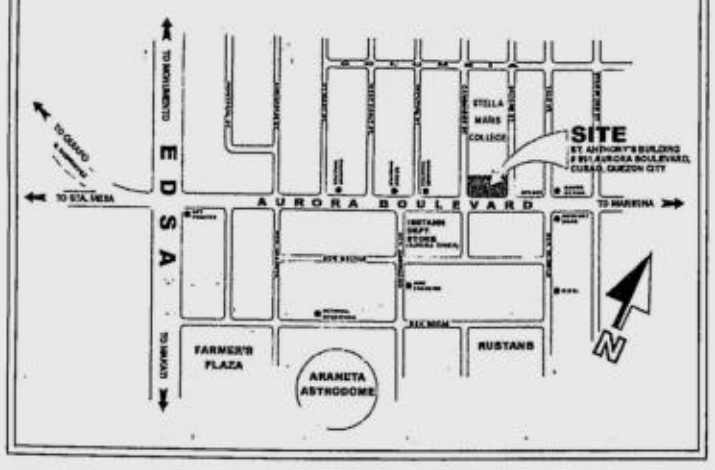
15 November 1917 - 12 December 1993

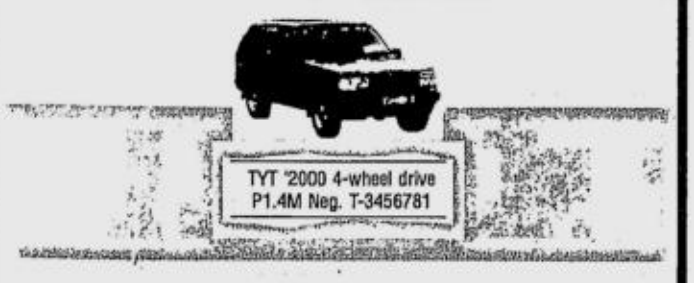
The family, relatives and friends request the readers to remember **Joe** in their prayers.

CLASSIFIEDS

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.





Invite 2.8 million people to test drive your car.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Read Classifieds

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 50% according to the 1999 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

PHILIPPINE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS NAVAL LOGISTICS CENTER
Fort San Felipe, Cavite City
Tel. # (046) 431-0204/524-2061 LOCAL 6643/6679

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Naval Logistics Center Bids and Awards Committee (NLC BAC) is inviting all interested suppliers, dealers, manufacturers and/or authorized distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following parts and accessories of Marine Scout Sniper Rifle:

34	Unit	Barrel Cal. 5.56mm; stainless steel (DPMS) BL-24 SST
7	Unit	Barrel Cal. 5.56mm; stainless steel (DPMS) DLH-20 SST
40	Unit	Free Float Tube (DPMS)
40	Unit	JP Match Trigger (DPMS)
40	Unit	Tri-mount Rail (DPMS)
40	Unit	Harris Bipod
40	Unit	Accu Wedge
40	Unit	Spotting Scope
40	Unit	Rifle Scope
40	Se	Cleaning Kits
40	Ea	(Rifle) Scope Cover
40	Ea	(Rifle) Transport Case
40	Bt	Bore Cleaning Solvent 16 Oz/bt
40	Bt	Cleaner Lubricant Preservative 500ml/bt
10	Bg	Cleaning Patches 10,000 patches/bg

Specifications and terms of conditions will be discussed during the pre-bid conference on **14 December 2001** (Friday) 2:00 o'clock P.M. at the Conference Room, HNLC, Fort San Felipe, Cavite City. Deadline for the submission of bid proposals and opening of bids will be on **20 December 2001** at 2:00 P.M. at the Conference Room, HNLC, Fort San Felipe, Cavite City. Interested bidders are required to submit the following documents on or before **14 December 2001** at the Office of Material Acquisition Division, HNLC, Fort San Felipe, Cavite City.

1. DTI/SEC Registration
2. Latest Business Permits and License
3. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership or Proprietorship
4. Company Profile to include Audited Financial Statement for the last 2 years
5. VAT Registration Certificate/BIR Tax Clearance Certificate
6. List of clients with contact person, Telephone Nos. & address.

The NLC Bids & Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by this committee.

(Sgd.) **EUFRACIO G. ARANCON, JR.**
CDR PN (GSC)
Chairman, NLC Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Dec. 6 & 12, 2001)

GIA
THAILAND CAMPUS

Gemological Institute of America

World's #1 gemological institute
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

Become a recognized professional in the gem and jewelry industry

Diamonds Diploma Program starts January 14, 2002

GIA Thailand Campus

Tel: (662) 237-9575 to 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

Get your career off the ground.

JOBMARKETONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 4470 OF 2001

BETWEEN
CHOW KA KEUNG Petitioner
and
MARIA LIBERTY M. TAYAG Respondent

NOTICE

A PETITION FOR DIVORCE HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE UNDERMENTIONED Maria Liberty M. Tayag of unknown address, who may apply to the Family Court Registry, M2, Wanchai Law Courts, Wanchai Tower, No. 12 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong for a copy of the Petition for Divorce herein. If within one month she has not communicated with the Family Court Registry, the Court may hear the case in her absence.

Registrar

(PDI--Dec. 12, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF BUGALLON (Pangasinan), INC. (RBBI)

1. The PDIC shall start claims settlement operations in the closed Rural Bank of Bugallon (Pangasinan), Inc. for the insured deposits with balances over P10,000.00 up to the statutory limit of P100,000.00 per depositor and resumé receiving/processing claims for those with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from December 13 to December 20, 2001, **except December 16 and 17**, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After December 20, 2001, all depositors can file their claims personally or thru mail at the PDIC Office located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest Identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Bugallon (Pangasinan) Inc. is on April 8, 2003. After April 8, 2003, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI--Dec. 12, 2001)

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

AMA, Microsoft to set up e-learning hub in the Middle East

AMA Computer University and Microsoft Corp. have committed to help achieve the goals of the Philippine government in increasing foreign labor investments and uplifting the literacy of our overseas Filipino workers in information and communications technology.

In a formal dinner hosted by AMA Computer University president, Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, visiting Bahrain Prime Minister His Royal Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa together with vice president and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona were presented with the details of the AMA and Microsoft joint project in creating a People and Skills development center in the Middle East.

The Prime Minister has allocated 2.6 hectares of land for the construction of a special school for Filipinos in Bahrain for which he initially donated some P48 million, and with more than 1.5 million overseas Filipino workers deployed in various positions in the Middle east, AMA and Microsoft have chosen the state to house the topmost and central "e-learning hub" for the OFWs in the Arab region.

The establishment of the "e-learning hub" is envisioned to realize the aspiration of the Arroyo administration to transform the country into a knowledge economy that uses information and communication technologies to harness its intellectual capital resources for national progress.

"The Philippines and the State of Bahrain share a long history of friendship and cooperation. I am confident that the state visit of Prime Minister Khalifa will further strengthen the bilateral relations of our two countries, and will provide His Royal Highness an opportunity to personally witness the positive developments occurring in the Philippines today," said Guingona.

In coordination with the State of Bahrain and concerned Philippine government agencies, the "e-learning hub" will provide continuing education and in-depth training in information and communications technology, state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure that will encourage Bahrain-based businesses employing OFWs to upgrade the ICT skills of their employees.

"I believe that the state visit of His Royal Highness will foster better relationship between the Philippines and Bahrain, and especially with our Muslim brothers in Mindanao. I wish to thank him for being a father to more than 40,000 OFWs who have adopted the sovereign state to be their second home and for his ceaseless generosity in donating millions of dollars in educational support to Filipinos ever since he ascended the throne," said Aguiluz.

Aguiluz has been helping the Arroyo government on its efforts of spurring national development by way of initiating goodwill partnership with world leaders and promoting e-learning in more than 200 AMA campuses and in collaboration with its premiere education partner—Microsoft represented by Richard Francis, managing director.

AMA and Microsoft, on a pinned memorandum of understanding, will responsibly provide the hub with their respective company's internationally recognized expertise in providing ICT education and software technologies. It will enable our OFWs to be updated with the usage of the latest technologies that will help them reach to their families back home.

The two giants and leaders in the field of ICT, AMA as the first Computer University in Asia and Microsoft as the leading provider and developer of software technologies worldwide, have been long-time tech partners in providing premiere ICT-based education to answer the growing demand for technologically skilled workers in the foreign labor scene.

REPECHAGE CEO BAGS AWARD
Lydia Sarfati (second from right), president and CEO of Repechage New York, recently won the Icmad Cosmetic Entrepreneur Award for Leadership, owing to her astounding feats in business.

NOEL'S FAVORITE
Jonathan and Lanie (second and third) of Kiss the Fish proudly receive the award for being Noel's Favorite last October. Presenting this special recognition are Mayose Bautista, project director and Dr. Quintin Doromal, executive director, BBF, and his wife. Made in partnership with the GMA Network and Cali for the benefit of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation, Noel Christmas Bazaar will again be returning to the Manila Polo Club on Dec. 15 to 16 to answer to the Yuletide's shopping needs. For inquiries, call 371-7405, 371-7398, 373-3601 local 216 or e-mail eventsonly@edsamail.com.ph.

FEDERAL CHEMICAL LAUNCHES IPO
Federal Chemical Inc. (Fedchem), one of the country's leading manufacturers of sealants and adhesives, formally launched its initial public offering. The offer period was from Dec. 3 to 7. Federal Chemical offered 12.508 million shares at P7 per share. The company aims to use the proceeds of the IPO for working capital. In its prospectus submitted to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Fedchem reported an average growth in sales of 40 percent for the last three years. Shown (from left) are Fedchem chair Wilfred T. Co; Fedchem president and general manager Charles Y. Kwa, Fedchem director Benjamin T. Co and RCBC Capital Corp. (lead underwriter) first vice president Valentino S. Bagatsing during an investor's briefing held at the Pan Pacific Hotel Nov. 23.

Nature conservation union holds regional confab at Gland, Switzerland

2001 is the UN year of volunteers committed to protect and conserve the environment.

At the International Union for Conservation of Nature Council meeting recently held in Switzerland, volunteers from all over the world renewed their commitments. IUCN director-general Achim Steiner focused on several issues; climate change, genetically modified organisms, dam construction and mining activities.

Antonio M. Claparols, Ecological Society of the Philippines president and IUCN regional councilor, reports that the council expressed concern over local GMO developments and asked that the Philippine government put a stop to the ongoing BT corn field testing, world consumer organizations and non-government organizations feel it unfortunate that despite the global opposition to GMOs, the Philippines seems oblivious to the dangers of such technology.

The World Commission of Dams, with the support of the World Bank, on the other hand, reported on the adverse effects of the construction of large dams on biodiversity and the environment cited was the San Roque Dam that has already displaced the Ibaloi tribe in the Cordillera Mountains in Northern Luzon. To discourage such activities, the World Bank is mandated not to finance similar projects.

Another issue is the appeal to repeal the Mining Act of 1995 and the protection of national parks and protected areas. This is to preserve our indigenous peoples, rivers and water systems, Claparols says that the council hopes that proactive engagements will be undertaken to correct these destructive practices.

EWETC SPONSORS ASIA PACIFIC ICT POLICY SUMMIT
EWETC (East West Electronic Trade Center), an international organization committed to the expansion of global trading, recently supported the Asia Pacific ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Policy Summit, one of the country's most important events in the information and communication industry, held at the Inter-Continental. Shown are (from left) Thomas J. Price, president and CEO of EWETC and Claro V. Parlade, president and CEO of Philippine Outsource Marketing Corp., giving a plaque of appreciation to Bill Collins, president of Ottawa Center for Research and Innovation, for being one of the keynote speakers of the said event. The summit was organized to raise the awareness of ICT policy issues as well as provide a venue for interaction between the private and public sectors. EWETC is the provider of the centralized International Trade and Banking Facility (ITBF), an e-business solutions package that combines software, hardware and procedures that links bankers, importers, exporters, manufacturers and buyers and sellers in the Internet.

Kumon Alabang Town Center awards advanced students

KUMON Alabang Town Center, in cooperation with Kumon Philippines Inc., Alabang Town Center administration and Friday's ATC will be honoring and recognizing the recipients of the Advanced Student Roll (Students working above their grade school level in Kumon) in an upcoming event dubbed "All-in-One Party". The event will also include their outreach program for the Give A Gift 2001 of the GMA Foundation, the initial Blessing of their New Center on the third floor of the New Wing (in front of Globe) and their traditional Christmas Party.

This will be held on Dec. 15, Saturday, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Promenade Center, Alabang Town Center.

Other sponsors are The Fitness Advantage, Picture City ATC, Jesse Mendez ATC, Lilles Development Corp., Wolf Development Corp., Dave Valdes, Mr. and Ms. Joey Castaneda and Mr. and Ms. Jello Galman, Mr. and Ms. Andi Tabusalla.

Kumon is a Japanese way of teaching math and reading. It is a long-term individualized program, which works on the child's pace. Aside from the skills and language taught, the child's speed and accuracy of a particular level, self-discipline and self-learning are developed. Needless to say, self-confidence and self-esteem of the students are boosted as well. For more information, call 809-9744 and look for Teacher Gemma.

LISTERINE AT THE INQUIRER
A new and exciting Listerine was presented to the editors and staff of Philippine Daily Inquirer during a sampling activity held at the headquarters of one of the country's leading newspapers. FreshBurst is the latest Listerine variant to hit the market. It is a hard-working oral antiseptic with an exciting new taste that kills the cause of bad breath and gum disease. The Listerine group will continue to visit schools, malls and other media offices to give free samples of FreshBurst. Listerine FreshBurst is developed and manufactured by Pfizer. Shown is Lexington International's Pfizer PR account manager Kheya Alvarez-Castaño (left), with Philippine Daily Inquirer advertising account managers (from left) Larry Mariano, Lita Pascual, Mylene de Jesus, Aggie Pinili and Apple Fontanilla.

INFORMATICS SUCAT AT 4
Informatics in Sucat Road Parañaque recently celebrated its 4th anniversary in simple ceremonies highlighted by a motorcade and a mass. Informatics, one of the country's leading information technology educational centers, is recognized for its curriculum and quality of instruction. It is likewise the preferred IT training center of the country's top corporations. To date, Informatics Sucat has an average monthly enrollment base of 90 students and a roster of graduates numbering 1000.

Clips

St. Luke's Parkinson's group meet

THE PARKINSON'S Support Group of the Philippines (PSGP) will be holding a meeting today, Dec. 12, at 12 noon at the 14th floor auditorium of the Cathedral Heights Building Complex (CHBC) South Tower of St. Luke's. PSGP president Hans Niederer announced that the meeting is free and open to the public. Interested new participants are encouraged to attend. For this meeting, recent updates in the understanding and treatment of Parkinson's Disease will be tackled. For more information, call the Movement Disorders Center of St. Luke's at 723-0301, local 3101 or 5552.

Fish, meat processing seminar at UP

THE GOLDEN Treasures Skills and Training Center (GTSTC) will conduct a one-day seminar on fish and meat processing at the training room of F. Benitez Alumni Center, Ylanan Street corner Magsaysay Avenue in UP Diliman, Quezon City on Dec. 14, Friday. Fish processing will be tackled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., while meat processing will be from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Participants will be issued a certificate of training. Those interested may call Jenalyn or Rochelle at 951-4594 or 951-7837 for details.

OFW, SME expo at PTTC

THE FIRST-EVER Philippine one-stop-shop opportunities exhibit and conference for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and small and medium entrepreneurs is slated Dec. 13 to 15 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City. Dubbed "OFWs-SMEs Milestones 2001", the event organized by GPI-Special Events Management Group (SEMG) will showcase business franchises, computers, peripherals, educational and entrepreneurial institutions, and other products and services for the OFW and SME families. Last year, OFWs remitted more than $10 billion to their families through official channels. For more information, call the GPI-SEMG secretariat at 510-3794 and 851-4981.

PPTF Christmas party

THE PHILIPPINE Printing Technical Foundation (PPTF), a national oganization of printers and print suppliers, will hold its Christmas Party at the Gloria Maris Restaurant in Greenhills on Dec. 13, Thursday, at 7 p.m. With the theme "Kapitbisig sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran," the party will feature a full course Chinese dinner, live entertainment, a parlor game, citations to special guests, and a candle lighting ceremony for unity, peace and prosperity. Exciting raffle prizes will also be given away. For inquiries, call the secretariat care of Cristy at 713-0902, 713-2671, fax 713-0905, or e-mail pptf@tri-isys.com.

THE ATENEO ALUMNI GLEE CLUB CONCERT
The Ateneo Glee Club of the 'Fr. Reuter Years' will hold a special concert on Dec. 12 ,14 and 16 at the new James B. Reuter Theatre in St. Paul College, Quezon City. Billed as 'Thank You, Fr. Reuter', the concert is a tribute to the Jesuit musical director and conductor of the Ateneo Glee Club in the '50s and '60s and will raise funds for the completion of the newly built state-of-the-art theater. The concert will also see the participation of some St. Paul College Alumnae Glee Club members and St. Paul Sisters. Also featured as a special performer is Alfonso 'Coke' Bolipata, world-class violinist, who will play some special pieces. The Glee Club will be conducted by Dr. Francisco F. Feliciano. The Ateneo Alumni Glee Club is composed of Ateneo alumni who have been outstanding in their chosen fields in government, business and the professions. They are probably the longest existing signing group in the country, having performed together regularly for the past 50 years, starting with their college days at the Ateneo. The concert is a project of St. Paul College, Quezon City Alumnae Foundation in cooperation with The Paulinian Alumnae Association of Manila.

14 ways to spread the Christmas spirit at work

By Ernie O. Cecilia

GIFT giving in the office at Christmas is a tradition. But how much money will you spend this Christmas to make your friends at work happy? Should the joy of Christmas always have a price tag? Are there inexpensive ways to spread the Christmas spirit this time?

Yes, Virginia! Santa Claus would say if he knew how much the cost of living and the cost of giving have spiraled during these times. According to Santa, here are 14 inexpensive ways to spread joy in the workplace (you can do one each day until Dec. 25):

1. Smile to everyone you meet, from the first day to the 12th day of Christmas. Before you know it, everybody else will be smiling back at you. Of course, some may wonder what you're smiling about.

2. Text your "caller groups" a different Christmas greeting everyday until Christmas Day. Be ready to receive the same text message.

3. Text or phone a Christmas greeting to an officemate you haven't talked to for months. He'll be wondering what you're up to this time.

4. Prepare an offbeat departmental presentation that will bring the house down during your Christmas party. Don't do anything that's offensive or vulgar to others.

5. Surprise your boss by taping Christmas greetings from his long lost friends and buddies and airing these greetings on your Christmas party. Just make sure the boss' buddies don't say anything silly or incriminating.

6. Bake or bring a simple cake and serve it during your break time with your work mates. Who knows, you can start a small cake business if they like your cake.

7. Contribute P50 or P100 daily to a departmental kitty from the first to the 12th day of Christmas. Raffle off the kitty on your last working day, or use it for a Christmas bash with your work buddies at your favorite bar.

8. Surprise one officemate each day with a handmade Christmas card. Don't use office supplies!

9. Call your telephone operator. When she answers, "This is ABC Company, may I help you?" give her a warm Christmas greeting. Make sure you don't have an electronic answering service.

10. Call for a departmental meeting at 4:30 p.m. with no agenda. At the start of the meeting, announce that those who have completed their tasks for the day can knock off and go shopping. After the announcement, adjourn the meeting.

11. Find out who is the neediest in your company. Then, without his knowing, pass the hat, in lieu of the usual Kris Kringle and exchange gift. On your last day, surprise the person by giving the cash to him and see whose tears fall first.

12. If your officemate's son or daughter is your "*inaanak*," bring your gift for your godson or goddaughter and give it to your officemate so that she does not have to bring her child to your place on Christmas day. That saves you the cost of meals to be served during their home visit.

13. Place a large carton box in the office lobby and start putting in old clothes, canned goods, toys or other gifts. Donate the collection to an orphanage and say the donors are anonymous.

14. On your last working day, go to the shop floor or warehouse and shake hands with everybody. Be sincere and be ready to get your hands dirtied and crushed.

The idea is to spread joy, and joy is best felt by sharing, without counting the cost. In the words of Seneca, "This is the law of benefits between men; the one ought to forget at once what he has given, and the other ought never to forget what he has received."

(E-mail feedback to erniec @edsamail.com.ph*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

How do you handle project work?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: My company dismantled its old departments and now assigns us to project teams. I feel like I'm getting a new job every few months! I miss the old stability. I've thought about changing jobs but it seems like the same thing is happening everywhere. Tell me this trend isn't here to stay!

These Days I'm A Project

Don't like projects, eh? Well, maybe this'll change your mind. Dr. Jean Claude Kaufmann, a sociologist at the Sorbonne in Paris, did a study on how homemakers feel about housework. According to his report, half his subjects reported finding housework "pleasurable." Some even reported feeling "heightened emotions" and "erotic feelings" as they cleaned. (I swear I'm not making this up! I read it in News of the Weird.) One woman claimed that if she irons immediately after breakfast she experiences "explosions of joy." Another said she becomes "inflamed with passion" when she touches "the merest dishcloth." As the French say, "whatever floats your boat."

All right, so maybe working on a new piece of software isn't going to ring your bell the way like, say, folding clean laundry might. But with more and more companies emphasizing project work these days, you do need to change your attitude. For tips on finding joy and passion in short-term (work) relationships, I recommend "Career Intelligence" (Berrett Kohler, 1998) by Barbara Moses. Dr. Moses has led thousands of job seekers out of bondage and into successful careers and I've adapted the following from her suggestions.

1. Do you know how to establish relationships quickly? There's no protracted handholding anymore. Projects are short, so you have to connect with coworkers in a hurry. Dr. Moses calls this TempWorld. She says creative use of faxes, emails, video conferencing, phone calls and one-on-one meetings (remember those?) can help you get to first base quickly.

2. Can you handle more than one relationship at a time? The days of monogamy are over. These days you've often got to manage several projects simultaneously. That means you need a system. Whether it's fancy project management software or good old-fashioned index cards, you need a tangible tool that will help you stay abreast of your various agendas and deadlines.

3. Do you know what you're good at? You'll never find Project Right if you don't know what you have to offer. So take a hard look in the mirror and also ask friends and colleagues for their appraisal. What strengths do you bring to an assignment? Where should you clean up your act? Then go for those projects where the chemistry is right.

4. Are you on the lookout for your next assignment? You need to focus on your current project, of course, but at the same time, you want to keep your eye on the future. These relationships don't last forever, you know, so you want to look for the next one before the last one's out the door.

So forget all those sages who talk about commitment. These days work is the one place where it's smart to play around.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: How do you feel about projects?

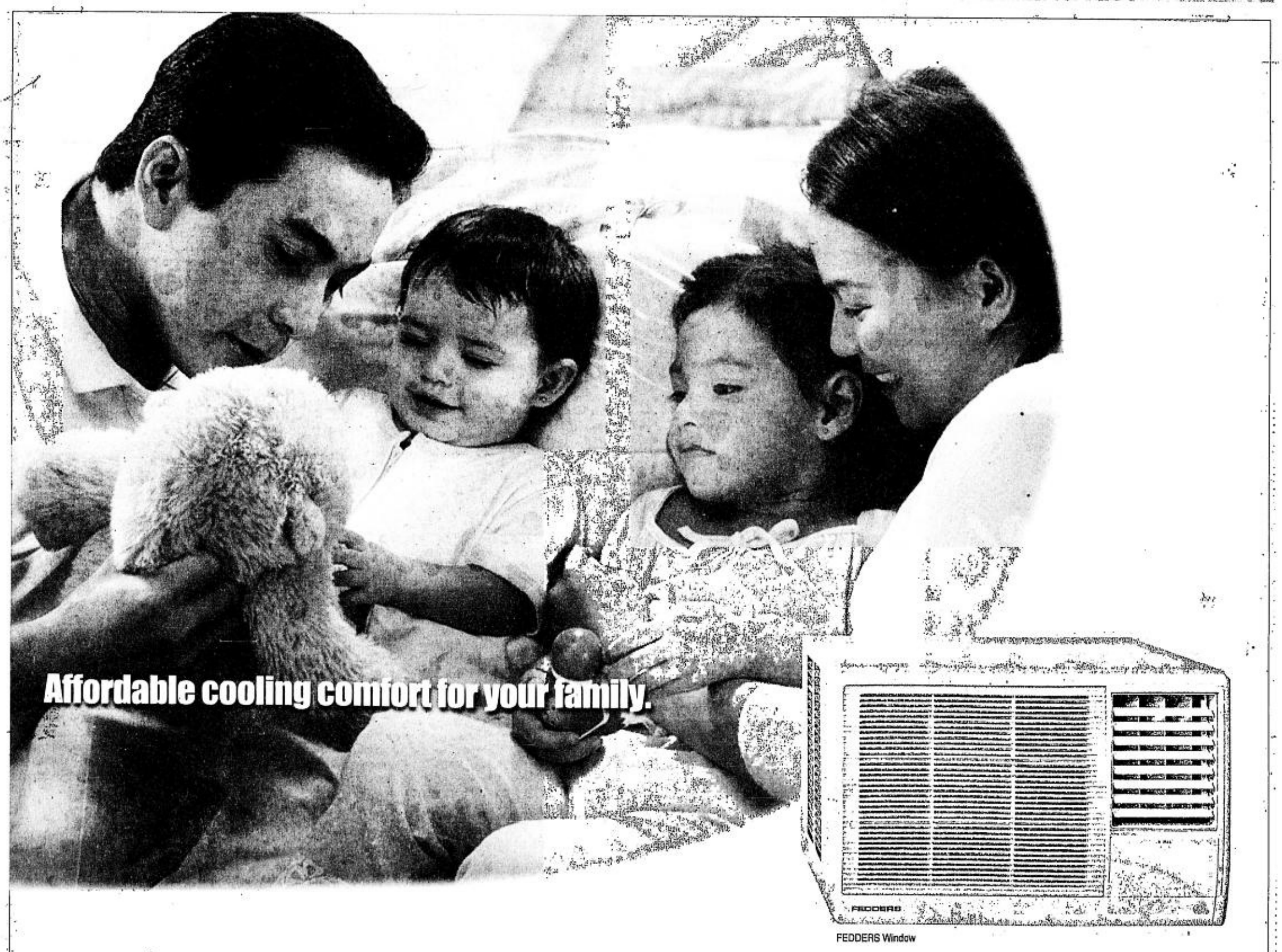
—Projects are a fad, 22.9 percent

—I do what I'm told to do, 29.4 percent

—They're a much better way to work, 47.6 percent

Our winning strategy comes from T.S., who has a Masters in Project Management from the University of Quebec. "#1 All projects are difficult. If you don't like difficult work, it's time to leave. #2 Who is the boss? Project organizations are strange beasts, it's really important to find who you report to and what they expect (get them to write it down). #3 What is the goal? Surprisingly, many people work on projects for months and do not really know what the purpose is. If you really want to contribute, instead of just showing up at meetings to eat donuts, find out the goal. #4 Learn to like change. Projects are all about rolling with the punches and finding a way to get it done anyway. #5. Lead, follow or quit. Projects are full of people who have opinions on everything and solutions to nothing. If you can't lead positively, at least follow positively."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*



FEDDERS Window

No matter how extremely hot the weather gets outside, your family's comfort is guaranteed. Because Fedders is the only air conditioner that comes with a seven-year warranty, it assures your family maximum cooling and comfort at minimum cost. The Fedders Window Air Conditioner has a specially designed grooved copper tube for high cooling efficiency. It also has a quiet and efficient compressor, a slide out chassis for easy installation, and rust-resistant cabinet for trouble-free maintenance. For years, Fedders has been keeping homes cool and comfortable in over 50 countries worldwide. Because your family's comfort comes first, turn to Fedders, a world leader in room air conditoining.

The only air conditioner in the Philippines with a seven- year warranty.

Fedders Koppel, Inc. Severina Industrial Estate Km.16 South Superhighway, Parañaque City • Tel. No. 823-2366 to 72 • Fax No. 823-7309
CEBU: A. Cortez Avenue, Mandaue City • Tel. No.: (032) 346-7277 • Fax No.: (032) 346-0055 **ILOILO**: Door #3 Iloilo City Alliance Really Development Corporation, Baldoza, La Paz, Iloilo City • Tel. No.: (033) 320-8212 to 15 • Fax No.: (033) 320-8214 **DAVAO**: J.P. Cabaguio Avenue, Davao City • Tel. No.: (082) 221-6419 • Fax No.: (082) 221-6418
CAGAYAN DE ORO: Moreno Bldg., Gusa, National Highway, Cagayan de Oro City • Tel. No.: (088) 855-1357 • Fax No.:(088) 855-3085

Fedders® is a registered trademark of Fedders North America, Inc.

FEDDERS®
A World Leader in Air Treatment Products

25 blessings at work to be thankful for on Dec. 25

BY ROCHELLE LEONOR

NO season gives more emphasis to gratitude than the Christmas season. And what's not to be thankful for? Christmas is the best time to reflect on the year that is about to end. The blessings we receive—whether in life, love and work—are plenty enough that it is just right to show our appreciation. Here are 25 things an employee can be glad about this Christmas.

1. Bonus. Whether it's just your 13th-month pay or your Christmas bonus, that is something to be thankful for.

2. Office Christmas party, no matter how simple it may be.

3. Holy Mass. Many companies hold Mass in lieu of Christmas parties. After all, there is no better way to express our gratitude than by thanking the Provider of it all.

4. *Monito, monita.* You may receive just tokens as gifts but as the old adage goes, it's the thought that counts.

5. Good friends. You always have at least one confidante in your office. Be thankful for that person.

6. Kind bosses. There should be at least one boss in your office that you admire.

7. Janitors, messengers and utility personnel. You may not always be aware of their presence but they make your working life much easier.

8. The 5S program. Without it, your workstation would be a pigsty!

9. Security personnel. It's much easier to work knowing that your company is safe from intruders. The morning greetings of the security people are also enough to perk up your morning.

10. Coffee (sometimes free!). There's nothing like a hot cup of coffee to start your day.

11. Coffee break. This is the perfect time to bond with your officemates, together with *yosi* breaks and CR breaks.

12. Office grapevine. Oftentimes, it is a cause of irritation but your office rumor mill can also be a source of amusement, especially if the rumors are too silly to believe.

13. Office clown. There is somebody who always brings the house down. You know who he is!

14. The four-day holiday. This means more time for bonding with family and friends.

15. Telephone operators and office secretaries. Aren't you glad you have someone to screen calls for you?

16. Outreach programs. The way to feel good about ourselves is to help and reach out to others.

17. Friendly smiles from strangers. Somehow, the Christmas bug has already bitten everyone. Even those whom you don't personally know from work smile at you.

18. Freebies. Inspite of many cost-cutting measures, some companies still give free food to show their thanks to their employees—a small ham, *queso de bola*, chocolates, etc.

19. Resident food vendor. Not only do you get instant food once your hunger pangs come, you don't even have to shell out so much money. The same goes for your official "*pahulugan*" guy.

20. Good music. Tucked somewhere in the nook and cranny of your office is a radio. You may not notice it but the soothing music makes the hassles and pressures of office work a little more bearable. Plus, the hourly updates keep you posted to what's happening with the rest of the metropolis.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

21. The HR personnel. Whether you need assistance with your salaries, loans and benefits, the best people to approach are those from your human resources department. Without them, you would be totally lost!

22. E-mails and text messages. A simple joke or a forwarded message is sometimes enough to make you laugh.

23. Fridays (and for others, Saturday). This means you have finished most of your work and you deserve a much-needed day off.

24. Gimmicks. At the end of the day, when all work is done, there's nothing better than to unwind with your officemates—whether in a bar or just in your office pantry—and just have fun.

25. Thank God you have work. Enough said!

'I left my medical career but came back'

We expect each day to feel good but we have to face the truth that pleasure is not always a pretty welding of soul

BY ANTONIO C. LEE JR., M.D.

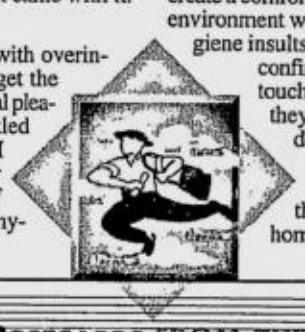
CHOOSING a career is not merely picking up what satisfies your pleasure, but also one should consider the entire gamut of issues from the economic and moral standpoints of life.

While many recent college graduates chose to head to a corporate whirl world, I found my way on a road less traveled—medical school. I never had any idea how my life would turn out. I later discovered that medicine is pretty much everything you would expect it to be: fascinating, appealing and boring every now and then, but mostly without fanfare. I became bound to books, journals and postgraduate lectures, where my 24 hours a day did not give me enough time to think. It was such a tremendous stress. It became a watershed of discontent and disarray, which only deepened as the years continued. Even if I were my normal self, it would have been a period of dark resentment, dissatisfaction and restless unhappiness in my life. It was an all work, no play, and a hurry-up-and-go lifestyle.

There is no doubt that taking the course needs persistence, not to mention money and intellectual capacity of a student. I went on to finish the course looking like a pathetic character doomed to the endless pursuit of the unattainable. I loved being a doctor, but I hated the pressure that came with it.

Pleasure

Our culture seems to be filled with overindulgence, yet many people don't get the minimum daily requirement of natural pleasure. Throughout the years, I battled head-on with my mind and heart. I was ready to believe that I had other talents wasted in the sweetness of desert air. I began to debate with myself and was trapped in a labyrinth of decision-making.



POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE EDGE

If somebody from the field of medicine were to say that he is quitting and changing his career at midlife, a lot of people would frown and think he is really goofing off. On the other hand, the things that take people beyond themselves are often intensely satisfying, if they could have done things differently.

Corporate entry

I risked my future to join the so-called corporate world. I went on to my very first job interview and exam. I kept mum about my medical degree so as not to intimidate my would-be employer. There was not much glamour in the job. I wasn't looking for it though. I decided that even if I was a starving technical writer, at least when I woke up in the morning, I could smile and feel happy because I would be doing what I love, away from sick people and hospital smells. I would have all my time to paint my favorite subjects on my weekend off. They would not be able to take away Saturdays and Sundays from me.

I liked the idea of doing my work whenever I want. I could leave the work for a while and come back to it later when I felt like doing it. There was no pressure. For as long as you meet your deadline, there was no complexity.

However, there was also a rub. I was upset by my surroundings. I wondered how an office can create a comfortable, efficient and productive work environment when bathroom humor, personal hygiene insults and stupid sex jokes are no longer confined to break times, but have become touchstones to working hours. For some, they considered the office a pleasure dome, especially some supervisors.

Maybe I was trained differently. I was very happy when I was given the benefit of bringing my workload home and obliged to report to office only once a week. It was such a great relief.

Promotion

Competence brought me to a promotion handling a new medical indexing project. It was a blessing in disguise during times of bullish economy, for the face of retrenchment was nowhere to found. Everyday was a working day for me, staying for at least eight hours a day to monitor and review indexes. I even worked on Sundays to cope up with deadlines. Wholeheartedly and under pressure, I worked without questions.

Nevertheless, there were still a lot to ponder upon. This job could sustain my way of life today, the way I want it to be. But will it give security for my future children and my children's future? Is this the job I really wanted to? Does it really satisfy my pleasure?

I could not go on with this kind of life. I saw no concrete rewards that come from taking time in that vast wasteland working with surreal, complex, bizarre and illogical managers who gave me the unkindest cuts of all. Maybe that's what they call "corporate syndrome." but I can't swallow it in just one gulp. I have to consider other aspects of life, not just personal pleasure. I felt empty, I felt useless.

Substance

Most vital people tend to be pleasure-loving, pleasure-seeking and pleasure-creating people. This theme of pleasure seems to run through our lives. We expect each day to feel good, but we have to face the truth that pleasure is not always a pretty welding of soul. It needs substance. Now that I understand that humanitarian activities is one of the most productive things that I can possibly do, I am trying to incorporate this into my life, as I go back to the medical profession.

For a time, I thought the "second career" might stop my digging impulse and was the final frontier of my search. But no, I kept looking down, shoveling the restless earth, looking for more. The balanced view is that, the "right career" is a tool to help us achieve something else in our lives.

(E-mail contributions to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph*)*

100% LEATHER

GUARANTEED THE LEATHER COLLECTION

Give 100% satisfaction with our genuine leather gifts @ 50% our regular prices. Bags & briefcases; organizers; personal, desk, travel & leisure accessories – all 100% leather @ 50% off.

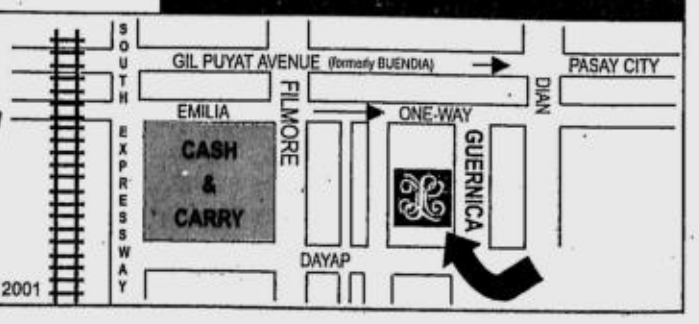
Offer good only December 14-16, 2001

THE LEATHER COLLECTION MAKATI

☎757 2286 / 87

50% OFF

Open 10 am to 9 pm Daily Including Sundays



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-0722 Series of 2001

Celebrate the season of giving, forgiving

RECIPES for LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

I AM certain that you are now planning for Christmas even as you are counting every peso and centavo that you have, don't have or might have. The good news is: Christmas will be forever. For poorer or for richer. For good times or bad. For better or for worse. 'Til He comes again.

It is that time when our thoughts should be pure. When our actions are more giving and forgiving. When our behavior is at its best. When our disposition is sunny and cheerful. When our spirit is renewed with the hope for salvation. When our dreams focus beyond the here and now and its heartaches and headaches. When our creativity is put to task to make the best with what we have. When all is said and done, Christmas is here and will forever be.

To continue our Workshop on Time Management by Enjoying Simple Pleasures and Eating Vegetables towards a Healthy Mind, Body and Soul, I am happy to share with you two books that have been under my pillow for the past two weeks and which I have read and reread several times. These are: "Simple Pleasures" by John Hadamuscin and "The Little Book of Vegetarian Recipes." These are thoughts and recipes borrowed from or inspired by the two wonderful books to help you spend Christmas without spending.

- Reread a favorite novel.
- Make New Year's resolutions.
- Break New Year's resolutions.
- Make a hot chocolate after coming home from office or window shopping.
- Get the flowers from your office Christmas party and rearrange them for your kitchen table.
- Take an afternoon nap.
- Make a wish.
- Slip under the bedcovers for an extra hour.
- Play cards with old friends on a rainy day.
- Go to Book Sale and browse through gardening magazines and enjoy a garden vicariously.
- Daydream when there's work to be done.
- Enjoy a baby's smile.
- Take your shoes off.
- Curl up with your INQUIRER newspaper.
- Whistle a happy tune.
- Savor the first whiff of coffee in the morning.
- Enjoy the sound of rain on your roof.
- Lend a hand to a friend or even a stranger.
- Ride a bicycle.
- Blow bubbles.
- Look for the Big Dipper on a crystal-clear night.
- Listen to children at play.
- Enjoy the smell of fresh air-dried linens and clothes.
- Refresh with *calamansi* juice.
- Watch the breeze rustle the curtain.
- Prepare a simple tomato salad. (In a bowl, combine four large, ripe, tomatoes from Pangasinan, cut into wedges; three tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil; two teaspoon of balsamic vinegar or *sukang Iloko*; one small sweet onion, very thinly sliced, two teaspoons fresh oregano leaves or 1/2 teaspoon of McCormick dried oregano, crumbled; generous pinch of salt and all the freshly ground black pepper you care about. Toss well, cover and let stand for one hour. Serve immediately.)
- Fly a kite.
- Sleep under the stars.
- Raid the refrigerator for a midnight snack.
- Go fishing.
- Take your lunch under a tree.
- Fit into last year's clothes.
- Sip peppermint tea very slowly.
- Tell Christmas stories.
- Share an old family recipe.
- Munch on a corn on a cob.
- Mushrooms and tofu in garlic butter. (Melt 100 grams of butter in a frying pan. Add two cloves of garlic and 1" ginger, crushed, and fry gently for two minutes. Add 225 grams of mushroom, drained, and cook gently for five minutes until the mushrooms soften. Finally, add 200 grams of fried tofu cut into 1/two-inch squares and heat through. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve at once with crunchy bread.)
- Have your back rubbed or scratched.
- Have a good laugh.
- Take a long hot bath.
- Window shop.
- Play board games with your family.
- Listen to Christmas carols.
- Sit in an old rocking chair.
- Tap your foot to a favorite tune.
- Go Christmas caroling around your neighborhood with your family.
- Believe in Santa Claus.
- Come home.
- If you are in Cebu, eat at Alejandro's for delicious food and fantastic customer service.
- Visit Bohol and take a trip back to the 1800s by visiting the churches at Baclayon, Loboc, Belar, Alvir and other towns. Don't miss the Clarins Family Museum and, of course, the breathtaking Chocolate Hills. If you are thinking of a retirement place, Bohol is it. Bohol is a human-friendly island and the Boholanos are a friendly and simple people.
- Anticipate Christmas.

Feel the joyous spirit that we all share during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. It is for free and it grows as you share it with more people.

It is 14 days before Christmas. Lots more time to enjoy it in various creative ways.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquno.ZZN.com.*)*

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Accountant is at career crossroads

ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

I WANT to go abroad but I am already in my 30s. I am bothered by our country's lack of progress. I am particularly disappointed with what is happening with politicians who engage in endless debates that only polarize the country. I feel the same way as Bewildered Programmer who wrote you in your July 18, 2001 column. But I am older and I am scared to take risks.

I should be content but somehow I don't feel satisfied. I don't feel I am growing in my place of work. My background is in accountancy and I am tired of accounting. Is it still possible to do a career change at this point in my life? I intend to take up computer courses in the United States and hopefully get a job. It is true I have to consider the cost of living and the loneliness of living a life independent from the family. Our family is close knit and they may object so I may not get any support from them. As much as I wish for financial success, I also value relationships. Please tell me what to do.

Confused Accountant

You seem to be at the crossroads of your career. You want to choose accountancy or computer programming, to continue living with the family or to live independent of the family, working abroad or staying in your current job.

In my mind, life is never a zero sum game. You can acquire computer programming skills building on your accountancy skills. You can live independently from the family and yet continue valuing relationships with the family. It need not be one or the other all at once.

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Still young

You are right, younger people are able to take more risks compared to older people. It may be because older people have a greater emotional investment in the past and it takes more effort to overcome their comfort zones. I remember my eldest daughter at age 23, deciding on applying for a job overseas, learning a foreign language, living independently for two years and thoroughly enjoying herself.

You are still young and in your early 30s. What I understand is you have always been protected from risks, living in the safe world of the family. So there's a great fear of breaking out of the shell and exploring the world. Think of it, all great inventions came about because there were people who dared to risk. The reason we fear risk is because of the pain involved in case we fail. However, when we are able to process and even acknowledge pain, we grow in maturity, at both emotional and intellectual levels. And there is no such thing as total failure. Disguised as failures are valuable learning.

Managing risks

Congratulations for writing this letter. It is a precious first step towards conquering your fear. Now, what to do? First of all, instead of a radical change where you change everything all at once, why not manage your risks? In managing change, experts suggest you don't change all things all at once. A person, because of his/her nature, needs anchors as he/she goes through change.

You can try enrolling in computer programming courses attending evening and Saturday classes. Keep your job as an accountant until you are done with your computer programming studies. Then take the next step, try working as a programmer in another part of the city, in another company if you wish. Then, experiment. If you live in the family residence with your parents, why not try renting a place or staying in a boarding house and see how that arrangement works. Meantime, you can start writing your friends and relatives abroad about job possibilities. If you get positive response, then take the next step to get the proper papers to work abroad.

No one is ever too old to make a career change. In fact, in this age where knowledge is exploding exponentially every year, a person with multiple exposures and multiple skills gains a higher degree of "employability."

Conquering fear

Next, how do you manage your fears? First, identify what you will lose in case you undertake the change. List down all the possible losses. For example, when I resigned from my job as a professor at the Asian Institute of Management to set up my own consulting company, I asked myself: "What will I lose or miss?" My list included the prestige of being with a distinguished school of learning, loss of dynamic interaction and stimulating conversation with other professors, and the fulfillment of teaching business students. I also noted the accompanying feelings such as sadness, lack of intellectual ferment, etc.

Second, I asked myself, "What are the worst things that can happen to me?" I imagined and noted all the terrible things that can happen: no one will get me as a consultant; I will become a pauper; my husband and children will not love me anymore. Then I started to test and take away the mystery from each one. I ended up laughing. It is ridiculous to think that no one will hire me having worked with two of the best corporations in the country. Or that my loving husband who has cared for me all these years will abandon me or my children will love me less.

Better things

Third, I wrote down all the best things that can happen to me. I might succeed and do well. I will have an enriching and meaningful consulting practice. I will have the opportunity to help people (especially the poor) with some of the profits of the enterprise. I will be able to produce original consulting products and services. I will be able to find time to do the things I love like writing. I will be able to travel. The possibilities are endless.

Finally, I decided on some small, exploratory actions to get started. I made a call to some friends on consulting possibilities. I organized a small home office in my favorite nook at home overlooking the mango trees. I took stock of my library and my work of over 20 years employed by companies.

Now everything is history. You might want to try this same process to better manage your transition to another profession, another company or another country. May God be your courage and strength as you take the step to live your life as best you can.

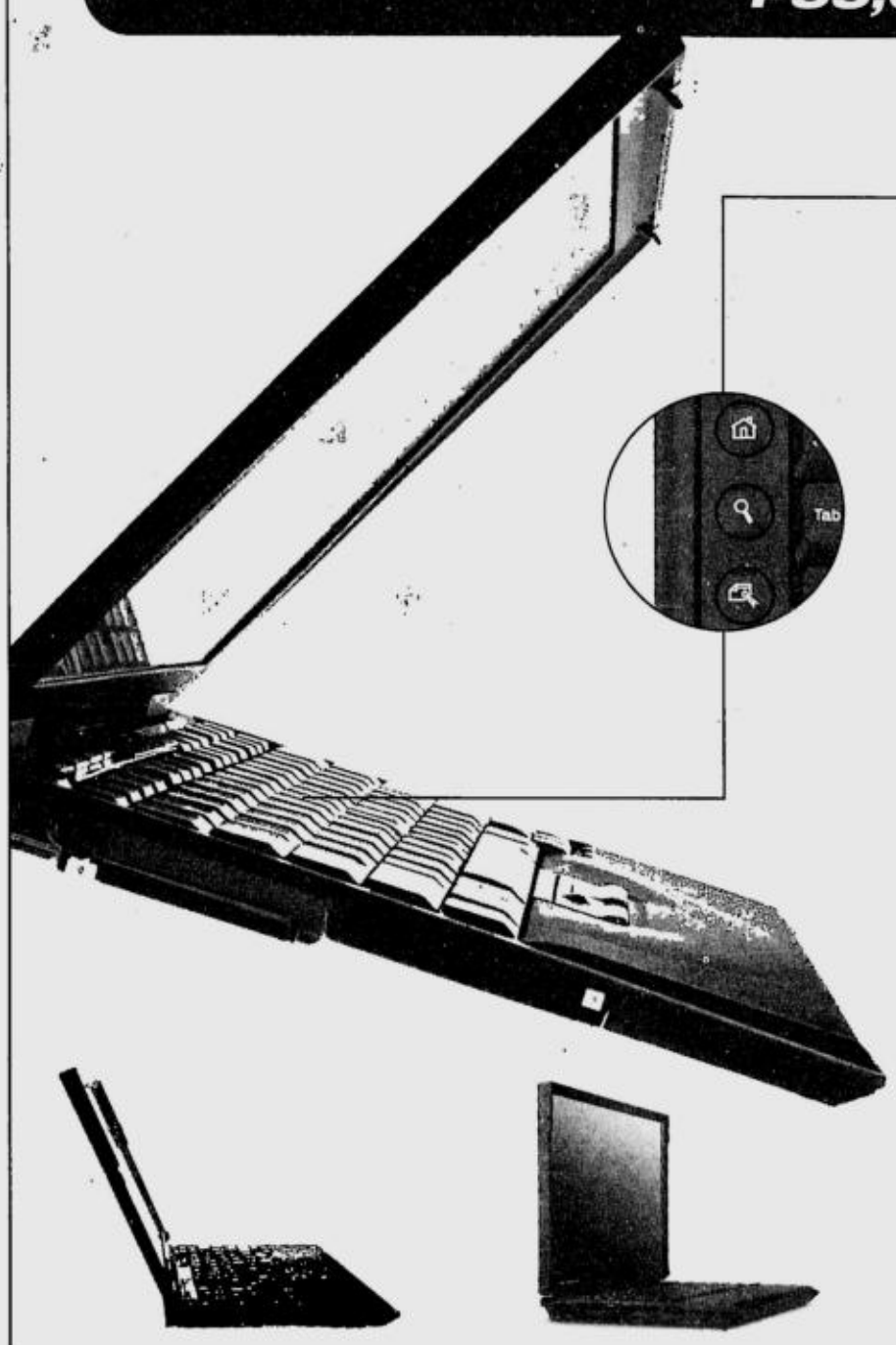
(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

Write down all the best things that can happen to you

generation @ business

IT'S EASIER TO GET TO THE TOP IF YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TO CARRY.

GET A THINKPAD NOW FOR AS LOW AS P55,000*



IBM ThinkPads. Light in weight and price. Heavy on features.

The IBM ThinkPad iSeries gives you the kind of performance that has made it the most award-winning line of mobile computers, but at an affordable price.

Its integrated 56K fax modem gives you fast, easy connection to the internet wherever you are. And to add to the ease and convenience it provides, its keyboard even comes with a TrackPoint pointing device and **EasyLaunch buttons**. Plus you can have peace of mind even when you're away from the office with the ThinkPad Button and Access ThinkPad that link you to award-winning IBM service and support. **And for a limited time only, prices start at P55,000*!**

But that's not all. The IBM ThinkPad iSeries 94A and 96A models come with either an 8MB memory key or 64MB memory**. The memory key allows you to share data between any notebook or desktop system via the USB port without the need for a floppy. No software, drivers or batteries required!

So now you can become a business heavyweight without having to break your back - or your budget.

ThinkPad iSeries 1161-43A
Intel® Celeron™ processor 700 MHz • 64 MB memory
10 GB Hard Disk • 24x CDROM • Windows® Millennium Edition
13.3" TFT • NiMH Battery • 56K fax modem
~~P62,888~~
P55,000

ThinkPad iSeries 1161-94A
- Intel® Pentium® III processor 750 MHz
- 64 MB memory
- 20 GB Hard Disk
- CDRW
- Windows® Millennium Edition
- 13.3" TFT
- Lithium Ion Battery
- 56K fax modem
- With 8MB memory key or 64MB memory**

~~P94,888~~
P88,888

ThinkPad iSeries 1161-96A
- Intel® Pentium® III processor 750 MHz
- 64 MB memory
- 10 GB Hard Disk
- 24x CDROM
- Windows® Millennium Edition
- 13.3" TFT
- Lithium Ion Battery
- 56K fax modem
- With 8MB memory key or 64MB memory**

~~P77,888~~
P70,500

ThinkPad iSeries 1161-72A
- Intel® Pentium® III processor 700 MHz
- 64MB memory
- 10GB Hard Disk
- 24x CDROM
- Windows® Millennium Edition
- 12.1" TFT
- Lithium Ion Battery
- 56K fax modem
- With Microsoft® Office Small Business Edition

~~P76,888~~
P69,500

intel inside pentium® III

CHOOSE AN IBM THINKPAD TODAY

call an IBM Value Partner (see listing)
or call 995-2426 or 1800-1888-0426 (toll-free) Mon-Fri only

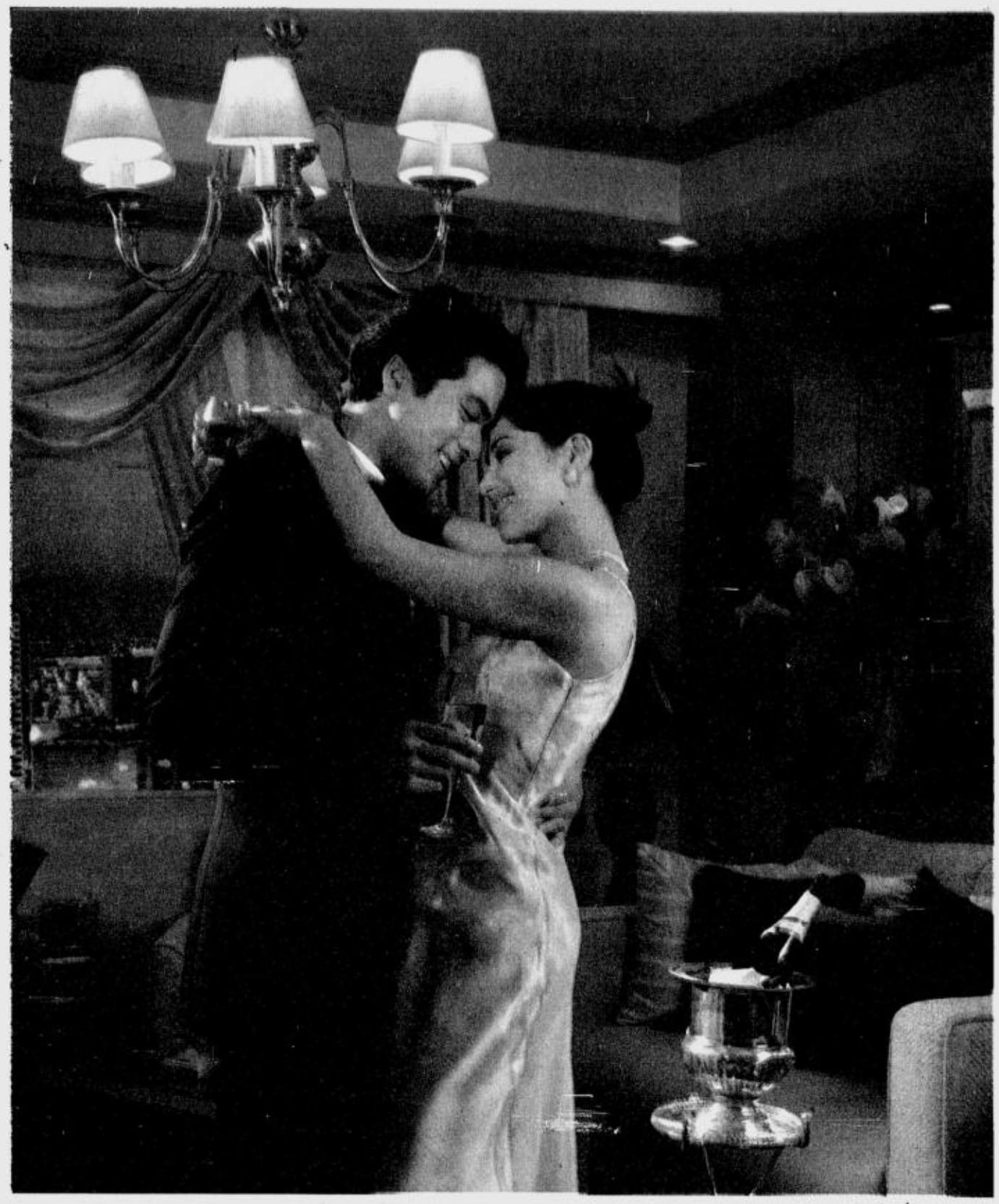
IBM

IBM PCs use genuine Microsoft® Windows®
www.microsoft.com/piracy/howtotell

IBM Distributors: MSI Digiland Tel. No. 4307777/6364008 • Technopeg Inc. Tel. No. 6376545 • Techpacific Tel. No. 7292220/8033553 loc. 8302 • IBM Corporate Value Partners: Eco I.T. Solutions Corp. Tel. No. 6872083 • Microphase Enterprise Corp Tel. No. 7500827/8120814 • Ng Khai Development Corp. Tel. No. (032) 3463175 • Right Computer Systems Tel. No. 8137501 • Zenshin Systems Corp. Tel. No. 3650536/3669305 • IBM Retail Value Partners: ABC Computers Tel. No. 7527559 • Compex International Inc. Tel. No. 7110288 • Complink Marketing Tel. No. 6329090 • Electroworld Tel. No. 6024366 • Silicon Valley Tel. No. 3715611 to 20 • The Computer Authority Tel. No. 6378297/6371200

*Promo period valid from December 7-15, 2001 only. **Additional memory vary per outlet. Prices are VAT-inclusive. IBM product names and the e-business logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Intel, Pentium and Celeron are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2053, Series of 2001



GREENBELT PARKPLACE

Luxury Residences

Makati's new power address for success, leisure and luxury

AT THE CENTER OF POWER

AS LOW AS

P17,000/MONTH

Greenbelt Parkplace offers you the power of an address that matches your stature. Putting you in a vantage position for success, right at the heart of the country's business capital. Placing you just a stroll away from the best Makati has to offer--the Greenbelt Mall and the finest shops, dining places, entertainment centers and hotels to satisfy your taste for leisure and luxury. And giving you all the premium perks of living at the top. From unobstructed views of the Makati skyline, to a refreshing dip at the 25-meter lap pool, to a feel-good session at the gym. All to keep you in excellent form, in perfect focus, for your further ascent to the top.

Developer and Marketing Agent:

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

www.megaworldcorp.com

Model unit available for viewing at Megaworld Showroom, 2/F The World Centre, 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tels. (632) 867-8868 • 867-8888 • Fax: (632) 867-8028 • E-mail: sales@megaworldcorp.com

For Announcement Purposes Only

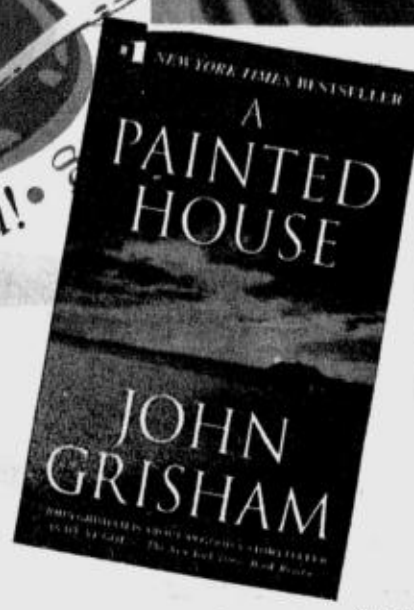
POWER BEYOND LIMITS
POWERMAX ULTRA ALKALINE
MAX Mura... MAX Tumatagal!
Also available ULTRA HEAVY DUTY

For feedback or suggestions ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE 2bU

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

DUNKIN' DONUTS COFFEE of the GO!



Can't wait for Christmas

It's frenzy time! 2bU! lets you in on the run-up to Dec. 25—the shopping delirium, gift guide, homemade presents, alternative ways to celebrate, Yuletide recipes and the stress—which overall should show that Christmas is here, whether you like it or not

basketball
ACCEL

Win an all-expense paid adventure trip for your barkada of 4 to any of these choice destinations, plus pocket-money!!!

Join Happy Trip sa Tropa ng ASIA BREWERY RAFFLE PROMO

Just collect any 4 crowns of Colt 45, Beer Na Beer, Lone Star Beer, Carlsberg, Stag, Manila Beer, Budweiser or Q Shandy.

TWO WAYS TO JOIN:

BY MAIL
Enclose 4 crowns of participating ABI products in an envelope with your name, age, address, tel. no. and signature on a piece of paper. Mail your entries to: "Happy Trip Sa Tropa" c/o EURO RSCG Philippines, 16/F Robinsons Equitable Bank Tower, 4 ADB Ave. cor. Poveda St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605, or drop at designated dropboxes.

BY COUPON
Exchange any 4 crowns of participating ABI products for coupons distributed at selected restaurants and bars. Fill out coupons and drop at designated dropboxes.

Deadline for submission of entries:
- December 8, 2001 - 1st draw
- February 7, 2002 - 2nd draw

Raffle draw dates:
- December 15, 2001 - 1st draw
- February 14, 2002 - 2nd draw

Drink-up and fly up, up and away! Join HAPPY TRIP SA TROPA RAFFLE PROMO ng ABI now!

See posters for details.

Promo runs from October 8, 2001 to February 7, 2002.

DRINK MODERATELY

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0812, Series of 2001.

How to have a merry Christmas in difficult times

BY CATHERINE YOUNG
2bU! Correspondent

FACE it. You probably feel that Christmas is a little...off. With the economic downswing, terrorist attacks, kidnappings and murder cases that plague the world, it is easy to assume the holidays will be bleak this year. But it is also a good time to try to find out what things would really make our Christmas more meaningful, sans the expensive decorations, trees, presents and all that jazz.

This week, 2bU! asks young people to answer the question "How will you make your Christmas happy?" The replies:

Spending more time with my family and friends and getting lots of sleep.—**Pammie, 18, Ateneo de Manila University**

Seeing my loved ones happy.—**Sharleen, 16**

By spending quality time with my parents and relatives. I've been busy these past few weeks because of my studies.—**Lester Leyva, 20, De la Salle University-Dasmariñas**

Buy the whole line of "The Lord of the Rings" toys!—**Bokyohong, 18, University of the Philippines**

By getting a lot of rest, i.e. sleep, eating a lot and talking to cousins I don't get to talk to the rest of the year.—**Cecille, 17**

I want to be able to spend quality time with my family and close friends. But then getting a new CD player would be nice, too.—**Stephen Roy, 24, University of Santo Tomas**

By sharing what little I have with others. It feels nice being able to make people smile. Also, spending the holidays with my sister and cousins...wreak havoc on the household with horns, drums and a shameless videoke contest.—**Lisa Lim, 19**

Even though we're the so-called new generation, the traditional way of spending Christmas with my family and friends is still the best way to celebrate His birth. Seeing long-lost friends and other relatives will surely make my Christmas happy and complete.—**Allan M. Borilla, 21, San Pedro College**

Christmas ham from Majestic Ham, an essential thing to make Christmas Christmas. Ok, (I'm) exaggerating, but when I get home, *humanda ka* Majestic Ham.

Just being with people you love. I think that's enough to make Christmas meaningful and happy.—**M**

I'd make a celebratory Christmas bonfire out of the main building of my beloved school. Yep. That'd make me happy.—**Chickin, 18**

Happiness is all in the mind. You can't be happy if you don't want to be happy.—**Ellu, 18, UST**

I can spend Christmas with the people I love the most. That alone will make me happy.—**Trina, 19, UP**

Since Christmas is the season for love and sharing, (I) guess the thing that'd make me happy is to share my love and quality time with my family and by doing little acts of kindness in God's name.—**Melissa, 16**

Gumby in a box with just a bow tie and nothing more.—**Candice, 18**

My sister Coffy's coming home and peace on earth and...new DVDs plus John Cusack with a big red bow won't hurt.—**Tammy, 18**

Try to relax, think of others, forget school and, of course, eat lots of good food!—**Sarah**

I guess I'll put up a Christmas tree. On top of it I'll put the Sorting Hat, and at the bottom I'll put wands, Chocolate Frogs and Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans.—**Drei**

To make my Christmas happy, I'd like to go on an all-expense-paid trip around Europe! Can you imagine the amount of culture you'll soak up?—**Barbie, 18, AdMU**

I'll make my Christmas happy by dissing all the grownup "Harry Potter" freaks! Seriously, I'll spend all of my Christmas money on lingerie and treating my chums on a food trip.—**Sam, 17, Miriam College**

I'd probably want to spend my Christmas with the less fortunate because seeing other people happy and knowing you've helped them in some way would make you feel better than spending your Christmas the usual way.—**Aikarix, 16**

By celebrating it with the people I love, doing things which have absolutely nothing to do with work or school.—**Martin, 18**

Go on a date with my crush.—Michael, 17

I'm making my Christmas a happy one by spending it with people close to my heart... Christmas isn't Christmas without togetherness.—**Arlene, 18, AdMU**

Heno de Pravia

Over P300,000 worth of prizes to be won

Winning Image Models get P100,000 cash each.

1. Open to male/female aspirants, 16 to 35, single or married. Previous winners are not qualified to join the search.
2. Attach 1 close-up (3R, most recent) color photo to any of these proofs of purchase:
   - One (1) empty Heno de Pravia (HDP) Soap Pack (135 g. or 180 g.)
   - Two (2) empty 90 g. HDP Soap Packs
   - One (1) empty HDP Skin Whitening Soap/Cream Pack
   - One (1) back label of HDP Deo Roll-on Active Plus
   - One (1) back label of Heno de Pravia Agua de Colonia

   On the empty pack, print your name, address, phone numbers and signature.
3. If you're sending a back label, stick it at the back of the photo. Write your name, address, phone numbers, and signature on a separate piece of paper. Mail entries to:

   HENO DE PRAVIA
   Search for Image Models 3
   P.O. Box 19400 San Juan, MM

Lucky Searchers can win P30,000 worth of prizes.

1. Attach 1 close-up (3R, most recent) photo of your Image Model to any of the above-mentioned proofs of purchase.
2. At the back of the photo, print the name of your Image Model candidate. On the empty pack, print your name, address, phone nos. and signature. Mail entries to the address above.

Lucky Senders can win up to P60,000.

1. Lucky Senders are entries without photos attached, and are eligible only for the 3 bimonthly draws of P20,000 each. Write your name, address, phone nos., and signature on any of the above-mentioned HDP proofs of purchase. Mail entries to the same address.
2. Non-winning Image Model and Lucky Searcher entries are also qualified for the draws. So send as many entries as you can!

* Entries must be received at least 5 days before the screening/draw dates: (1st) Jan. 16, 2002, (2nd) Mar. 13, 2002; (3rd) May 16, 2002

In cooperation with: Horizon Edsa Hotel

PROMO DETAILS:

The nationwide promo runs from Nov. 17, 2001 to May 17, 2002.

Pre-screening for qualifiers: All entries received will be screened by client, agency, and DTI rep. every 2 mos. The bimonthly Lucky Sender winner will be drawn from the Lucky Sender and non-winning Image Model/ Lucky Searcher entries.

Criteria for pre-screening: Photogenic quality and image projection - 50% Beauty (*For males: Appeal*) - 50% *Must possess a beautiful (or handsome) face with clear complexion.*

Selection of Finalists: Only 10 final candidates (5 males, 5 females) who meet the cut-off score of 85% will be chosen for the final judging.

Final Image Model candidates and their Lucky Searchers (if any) will be notified by registered mail. They must confirm their participation on or before May 24, 2002.

The Lucky Searchers will have to show their registered mail and present a valid ID on the screening date.

Final Screening: The 10 official candidates will undergo VTR and photo sessions on May 31, 2002 at Horizon Edsa Hotel. Judges will determine the official HDP Image Models.

Criteria for final screening: Personality - 50% Beauty (Appeal for Males) - 40% Talent - 10%

Announcement of Winners: Awarding of Image Model/ Lucky Searcher winners will be on June 1, 2002 in one of Manila's prestigious malls.

Prizes: Image Models: each receives P100,000 in cash *plus P10,000 worth of local & imported Gal products.*

Lucky Searchers (if any): each receives P20,000 in cash *plus P10,000 worth of local & imported Gal products.*

Lucky Senders: each receives P20,000 in cash.

For inquiries, call TACTICAL Ads @ 671-9795 to 97

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO 1721, SERIES OF 2001

Celebrating Christmas beyond the food and gifts

PATRICIA, 17

KAREN Lee, 17

BY TAMMY DAVID
2bU! Correspondent

CHRISTMAS is around the corner and some of us may have already started on our traditions like setting up the tree in November (and taking it down last week of January), going Christmas shopping and organizing a kris kringle among our peers.

2bU! asked some young people what they usually do during the holidays aside from eating ham, attending Simbang Gabi, listening to *lola*'s stories and opening presents.

Every year, my mom makes sure the whole family wears something identical—like once, pins with Christmas symbols (some even had lights and music!); another time, T-shirts with the same print! I have yet to find out what she has in store for us this year!—**Kam Gamilla, 18**

One weird Christmas tradition for me is throwing away food in the fridge that I don't like and telling my mom that I ate it all. I'm surprised she hasn't found out yet!—**Ed Cham, 18**

[We always have] a family basketball game after *Noche Buena*—in underwear *lang*. It's for the boys only.—**CJ Rodriguez, RX93.1**

I always spend the day at work but it's fun though.—**Dr. Love/Tom Alvarez, RX93.1**

Back home in Mystic, Connecticut, every New Year's Day, [we have] this 3-mile run in the morning. It's all cold and snowy and the whole town gets together to run to the beach (while drinking) and jumps into the water! Everyone does it— from little kids to grownups!—**Jenny Marie Baldoz, 24**

Every Christmas someone in the family (usually me) lists down the gifts under the tree (so) we could send thank you notes/letters to the people who gave them. (But) the list always gets lost. This has been happening for a few years now but we still make the list every Christmas.—**Anne Rose Elicaño, 18**

My cousin and I are die-hard romance novel aficionados. Too bad she lives in Lucena, so we only get to see each other about once a year during the holidays. This has led to our annual book-swapping tradition. Each Christmas, we present each other the best book we've read during the year. I can't wait to see what she'll have for me this year!—**Ann Yu, 19, Ateneo de Manila University**

I make it a point to go to bazaars and *tiangges* with friends and family during the Christmas season. Some events are just too good to miss. For instance, my mom and I have been going to the International Bazaar (an annual one-day affair at the World Trade Center in Manila showcasing bargain-priced products from around the world) for seven straight years since 1995. Bazaar buys provide a refreshing change from the usual mass-produced store items.—**Mel Telan, 18, AdMU**

I sleep from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. and start calling up friends 'til dawn. We chat about each family's Christmas meal. But texting would probably preoccupy me this year...—**Melody, 17, UST**

After the traditional Filipino Mass and meal, I sleep with my sister 'til 12 a.m. I wake up when the fireworks start and I tire my brain and hands writing down my thoughts 'til Christmas morning.—**Mich, 20, UP**

I play a track or two from Jose Mari Chan's Christmas album, look at the starry sky at night for 10 minutes and think about the previous Christmas then ask myself why I have not met my significant other yet.—**Giles Ivan Aquino, 21, Don Bosco/CHALK Mag**

Go to Mass. Fancy, *no?* It's not really a Christmas tradition, more like an annual miracle. It's inexplicable how I voluntarily get my half-asleep self into a crowded room busy playing a game of Simon says (the with 'please' version 2.0). Have no idea what I am talking about? I've got two words as example: 'Please kneel'.—**Margot Tan, 18, UP Diliman**

My Christmas tradition is very, very complicated...go out for breakfast with family...have brunch with relatives...lunch out with friends...go on a post-lunch trip to a coffee place... have afternoon *merienda* with my cousins...devour the highly anticipated dinner buffet with my family...drag everyone to a dessert place for more food...and, finally...topping off all those meals and mini-meals... *Noche Buena*!—**Joni, 18, University of Southern California**

After our Christmas dinner, we would always get our candy canes from our Christmas stockings and have it as dessert while opening our presents.—**Marie Gomez, 15 and Celeste Gomez, 19**

I always buy a new outfit for Christmas Day.—**Patricia, 17**

My family and I just sleep the whole day on Christmas.—**BB, 17**

I open everyone else' gifts except mine.—**Char, 17**

I tell stories to my little cousins.—**Karen Lee, 17**

I have a phone marathon. I call all of my friends, even those in grade school, greet all of them a Merry Christmas, and ask their Christmas wishes for the year.—**Hans Ivor A. Aquino, 16, Don Bosco Technical College**

With reports from Cheryl Tiu, Melissa Telan and Mich Pino

2BU!'S PALM M100 PROMO

Saving the world with my Palm

RAVE, our second and last winner, will be spending the holidays with a new Palm M100 from Microwarehouse Inc. He posted his list of 100 things he can do with his Palm on Pinoyexchange.com. Here are a few excerpts:

- Keep a virtual pet.
- Use it as a magic 8-ball.
- Use it as a TV remote control.
- Use it as a mirror.
- Use it as a Laser Tag gun and run around shooting my friends.
- Use it as an alarm clock
- Use the Palm as a scratchpad.
- Use the backlight as a makeshift flashlight.
- Blast space aliens.
- Whack moles.
- Squish bugs.
- Pop bubbles.
- Save the world.
- Beat up gangsters.
- Race at 200 mph at the convenience of my own room.
- Destroy entire alien planets.
- Blast asteroids into bits.
- Defend a city from marauding space pirates.
- Play volleyball.
- Play air hockey.
- Participate in dogfights and air duels.
- Hack and slash through perilous dungeons.
- Vanquish evil sorcerers.
- Cast exotic magic spells.
- Slay dragons.
- Go on Crusades for the King.
- Save the girl and live happily ever after.
- Disintegrate UFO's.
- Challenge a friend in a casual game of chess.
- Challenge Kasparov in a casual game of chess.
- Play checkers.
- Sink battleships.
- Play hangman.
- Crush a friend in a mind-blowing game of tic-tac-toe.
- Play one of the hundreds of solitaire games.
- Play poker without losing my life's savings.
- Play strip poker without losing my clothes.

Free Admiral Laundry Teledryer 70
Imported! Worth ₱3,000
₱27,825 Washer
₱27,300 Gas Dryer
SALE
AAV 1200 AKW
LNC 8700 AT1 / A77
₱26,500
₱26,000
Yes! ADMIRAL is going wild this holiday season. Showering you with an Imported Admiral Laundry Teledryer 70 for every purchase of an Admiral 10.1 kg.(3.3cu.ft.)WASHER or10.1kg.(7cu.ft.)DRYER. Not only is the feature of Admiral 10.1 kg. washer bigger in tub-size capacity than brand "X", in fact it is 9% more than brand "X's 10.5 kg. washer.
Promo Period: December 1 to December 31, 2001
Hurry get this offer now!!!
PROUDLY MADE IN USA
Available at:
SALES DIRECT LTD.- TEL.#910 - 5986
SM APPLIANCE CENTER - TEL.#734 - 9567
SM MEGAMALL B 632 - 7124, SM SOUTHMALL 800 - 3513
SM NORTH EDSA 928 - 9665, SM FAIRVIEW 935 -0720
SM BACOOR (046) 417-0117
ANSON EMPORIUM - TEL.#843-4057/845-3009
ZOOM MARKETING-TEL.#361-3324
ROYAL STAR - TEL.#(049)545-1327/545-1586/545-5264
FAIR N' SQUARE ALL BRANCHES - TEL.#361-7762/241-2849/241-3272
CONPINCO MARKETING - TEL.#925-5213/925-5215,17
PIONER CENTER SUPERMARKET - TEL.#638-5911/637-7031
NEW TARLAC NORTHERN MARKETING - (045)982-0078
(MAGIC APPLIANCE CENTER)
DAGUPAN CITY - TEL#(075)515-5381/515-2793/515-5546
URDANETA CITY - TEL.#(075)568-8896/568-2278
ALAMINOS - TEL.#(075)522-7370
For value, nothing outranks an ADMIRAL
A DIVISION OF MAYTAG
(Parts Readily Available)
Authorized Metro Manila Dealer Unisphere Holdings Inc. Tel. Nos. 910-5113;671-5955
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1945 series of 2001

www.lacoste.com
LACOSTE CHAUSSURES

Style: Elm *leather*

• Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Level 2
Telephone 635-0744
• Ayala Center, Makati, Glorietta 3
Telephone 867-4077
• Robinsons Place Manila
Padre Faura Wing, Level 2
Telephone 522-7778
LACOSTE
DEVIENS CE QUE TU ES
• The Power Plant Mall, Makati
Ground Floor
Telephone 898-0933
• Unit.120
Ground Floor, The Podium
#18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center
Mandaluyong City
Telephone 633-8226

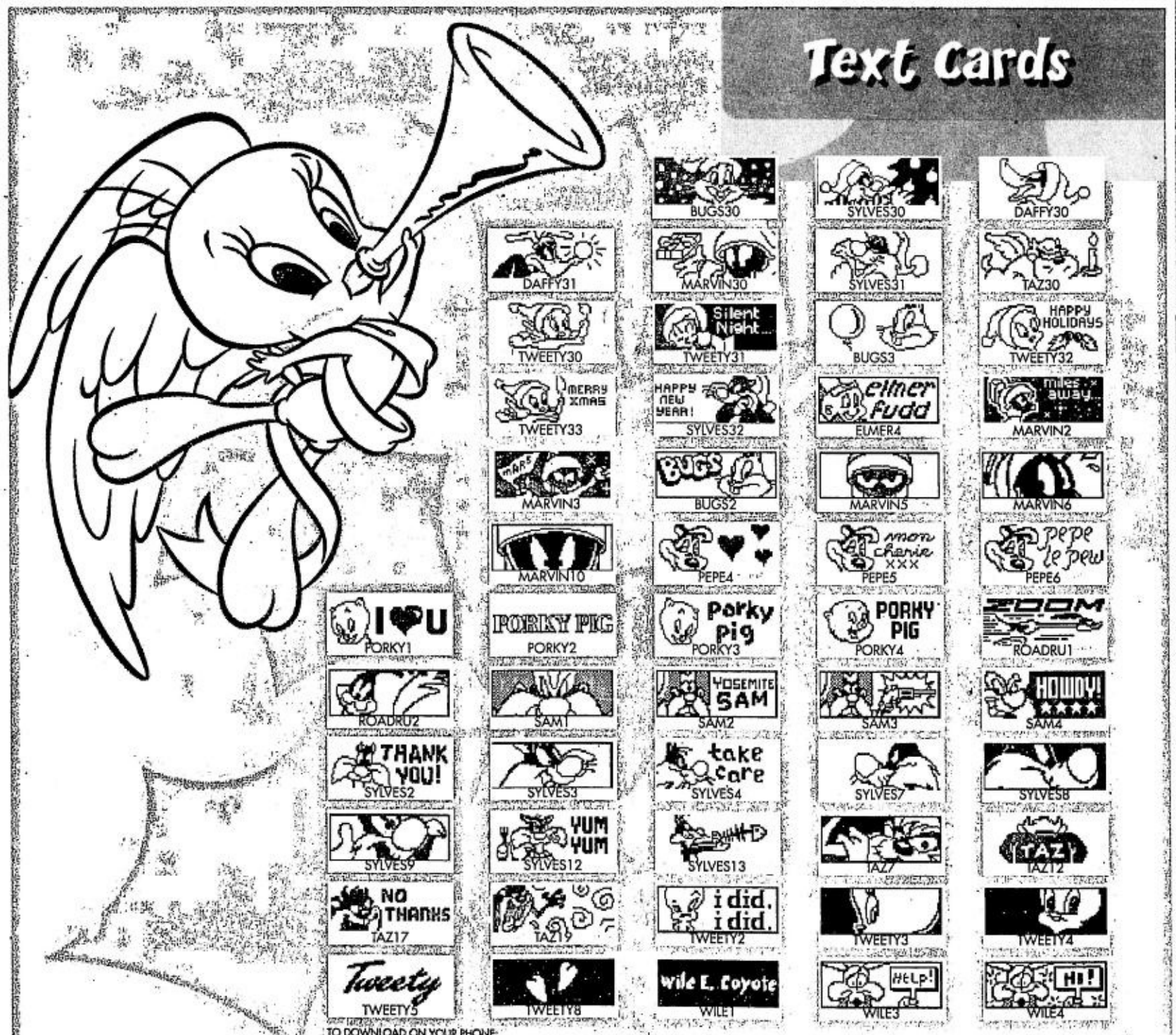
Joy to the World
A gift of music from Ayala Malls
CHRISTMAS CONCERTS FOR CHARITY
AYALA CENTER MAKATI
VERNIE VARGA & KATRINA
Dec. 12, Beneficiary: Batang Munti Foundation
APO HIKING SOCIETY & KIDS
Dec.13, Beneficiary: Bahay Maria
CALVIN MILLADO, BITUIN ESCALANTE, & THE CAST OF RENT MANILA
Dec. 14, Beneficiary: DSWD-NCR through Destiny Cable
VINA MORALES
Dec. 15, Beneficiary: Make-A-Wish Foundation
ZSA ZSA PADILLA
Dec. 16, Beneficiary: Child and Youth Welfare Program
KUH LEDESMA & ISABELLA
Dec.17, Beneficiary: Mango Tree House
GARY VALENCIANO
Dec. 18, Beneficiary: UNICEF
OGIE ALCASID
Dec. 19, Beneficiary: GMA Foundation
RACHEL & HAJJI ALEJANDRO
Dec. 20, Beneficiary: World Vision
CRIS VILLONCO & THE COMPANY
Dec. 21, Beneficiary: Bantay Bata 163
MARTIN NIEVERA
Dec. 22, Beneficiary: CENTEX
All concerts at the Glorietta Activity Center, 6pm.
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
VINA MORALES
Dec. 14, Activity Center, 6pm
Beneficiary: Batang Munti Foundation
AYALA CENTER CEBU
DONNA CRUZ
Dec. 15, Lagoon Area, 7pm
Beneficiary: Children's Shelter for Cebu
THE COMPANY
Dec. 16, Lagoon Area, 7pm
Beneficiary: Christ for Asia Foundation
THE UNFORGETTABLES
Dec. 23, Lagoon Area, 7pm
Beneficiary: SOS Children's Village
Catch the Fireworks Show in Ayala Malls. See flyers for details.
Sponsors:
HSBC
penshoppe
SIEMENS mobile phones
The Ayala Events
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more! www.ayalamalls.com.ph

HAVE A WACKY CHRISTMAS!

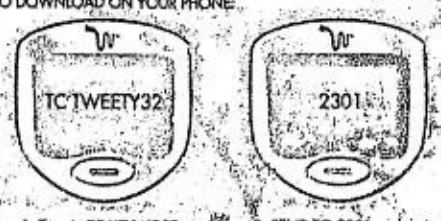
LOONEY TUNES™

on your GLOBE HANDYPHONE!

Text Cards



TO DOWNLOAD ON YOUR PHONE:



1. Type in TC KEYWORD
EXAMPLE: TC TWEETY32

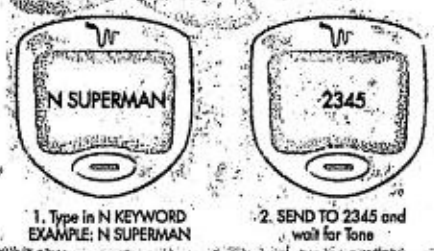
2. SEND TO 2301 and wait for Text Card

To send Text Card to your friend's Nokia mobile phone. Type in TC KEYWORD 09179876543 <SENDER's NAME><SENDER's MESSAGE>
(where 9876543 is your friend's Globe Handyphone number and <> are not to be typed in), and send to 2301
Example: TC TWEETY 09179876543 Alexis Merry Xmas

Title
PASKO NA NAMAN
PASKO NA SINTA KO
AULD LANG SYNE
GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN
O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
ODE TO JOY
SILENT NIGHT
HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRIS
IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN
SLEIGH RIDE
CHRISTMAS SONG
CHRISTMAS WALTZ
FROSTY THE SNOWMAN
I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
LAST CHRISTMAS
THE FIRST NOEL
WHITE CHRISTMAS
JINGLE BELLS

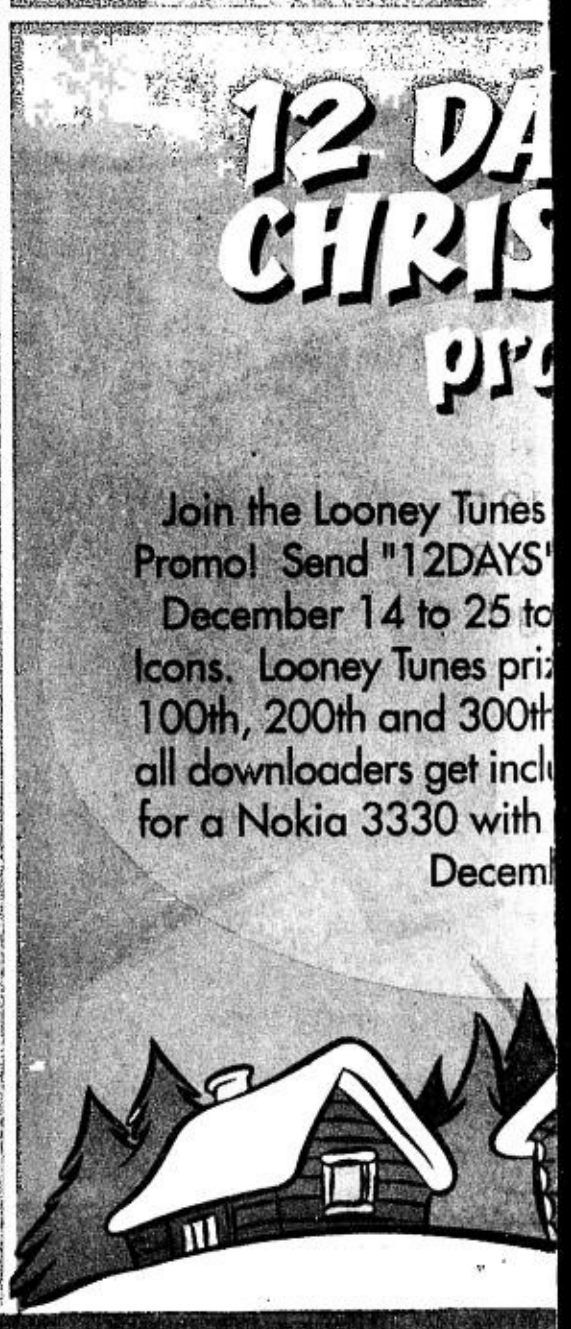
Title
BAG IT UP
BUILD ME UP BUTTERCUP
CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF
CASE OF THE EX
CHARLIE'S ANGEL
CLINT EASTWOOD
DRIVE
FIESTA
GIVING YOU MORE
GROW OLD WITH YOU
LADY MARMALADE
ROLLIN
S CLUB PARTY
SCHOOL'S OUT
SUPERMAN (It's Not Easy)
UPTOWN GIRL (VER. 1)
UPTOWN GIRL (VER. 3)
YOU AND ME
OYE COMO VA
TEQUILA

TO DOWNLOAD ON YOUR PHONE:



1. Type in N KEYWORD
EXAMPLE: N SUPERMAN

2. SEND TO 2345 and wait for Tone



wsa
wireless services asia

How to search for your favorites:
Type in ICONS, TONES, TEXT CARDS and send to 2333, to get list of available categories
Type in TONESEARCH ARTIST/SONG and send to 2333, to search for your favorite song's tone keyword

Visit www.myglobe.com.ph and go to Fun & Games to check complete list of Icons, Tones, Text Cards, and to see Ericsson Tone Guide.

Phone compatibility:
Icons service currently works with the following models:
Nokia: 5110 (version 4.59 and up), 3210, 3310, 6110, 6130, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8810, 8850, 8890, 9110 & 9210
Sendo: J520 (using Nokia keywords)

Tones:
Nokia : 3210, 3310, 3330, 6110, 6130, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8810,8850,8890,9110&9210
Ericsson : GH688, GH768, GH788, 1888, T10s, T18i, T28s Ericsson users must encode their ringtones using the Tone Guide.
Sendo: S200, J520, P200 (using Nokia keywords)

Text Cards:
Nokia: 3210,3310,6210,8210,8850
Enhanced Screen saver function: Nokia: 3310 and 3330

Pricing
Tones, Icons,and Text Cards cost Pv20 for plan subscribers and Pv25 for prepaid subscribers per request.

LOONEY TUNES, characters, names and all related indicia are trademarks of and ©Warner Bros (s01)

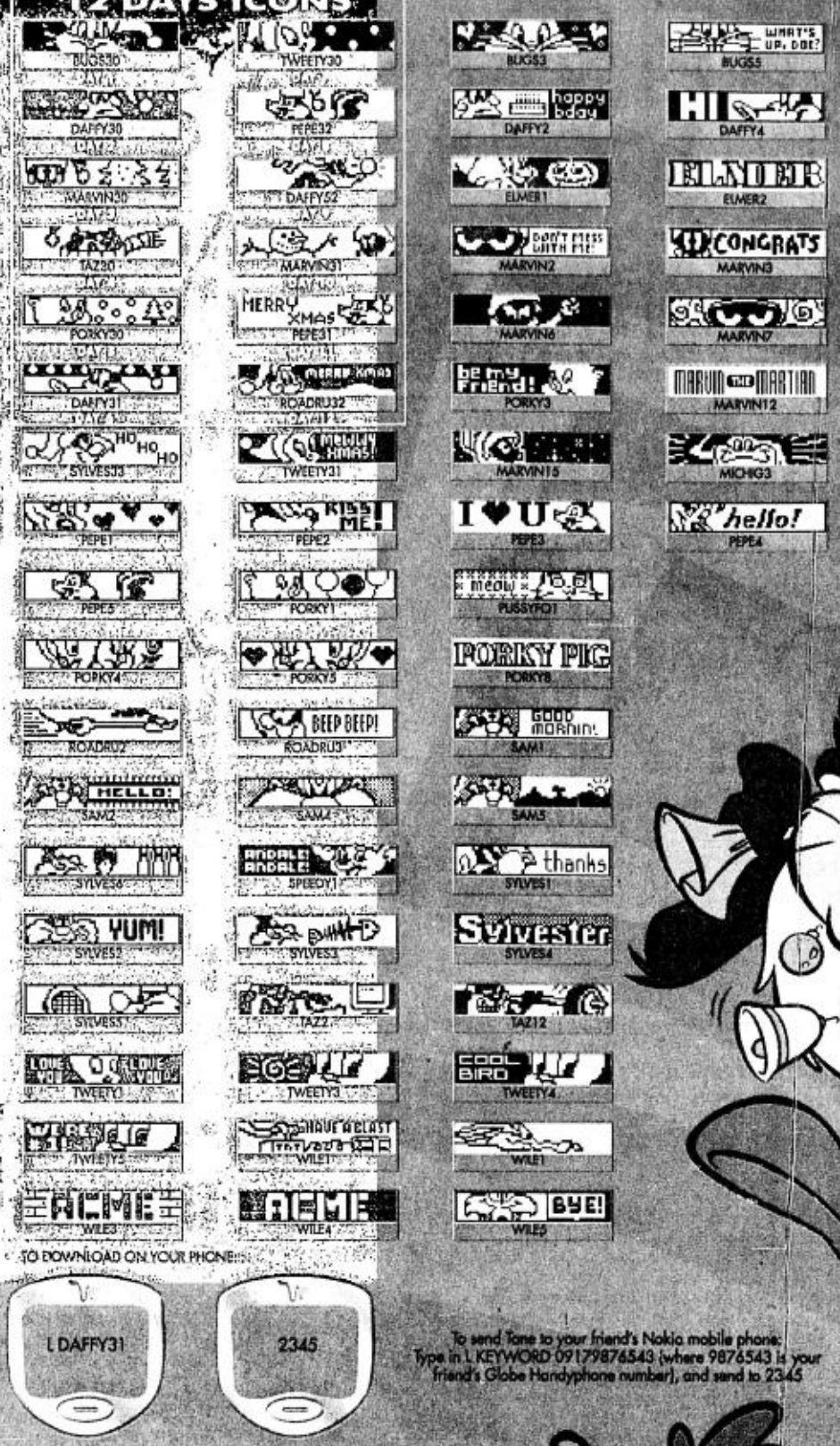
Tones

Keyword	Artist
paskona	GERI HALIWELL
paskosnta	various artists
autdlang	ANDY WILLIAMS
godrest	MAYA
ocome	CHARLIE'S ANGEL THEME
ode2joy	GORRILAZ
silentni	INCUBUS
havurslf	R. KELLY/JAY-Z
luksxmas	AALIYAH
santatwn	ADAM SANDLER
sleighri	ALL SAINTS
xmassong	LIMP BIZKIT
xmaswltz	S CLUB 7
frosty	ALICE COOPER
ilbhome	FIVE FOR FIGHTING
lastxmas	WESTLIFE
1stnoel	WESTLIFE
whtxmas	SAINT
jinglebel	SANTANA
	CHUCK RIO

To send Tone to your friend's Nokia mobile phone:
Type in N KEYWORD 09179876543 (where 9876543 is your friend's Globe Handyphone number), and send to 2345

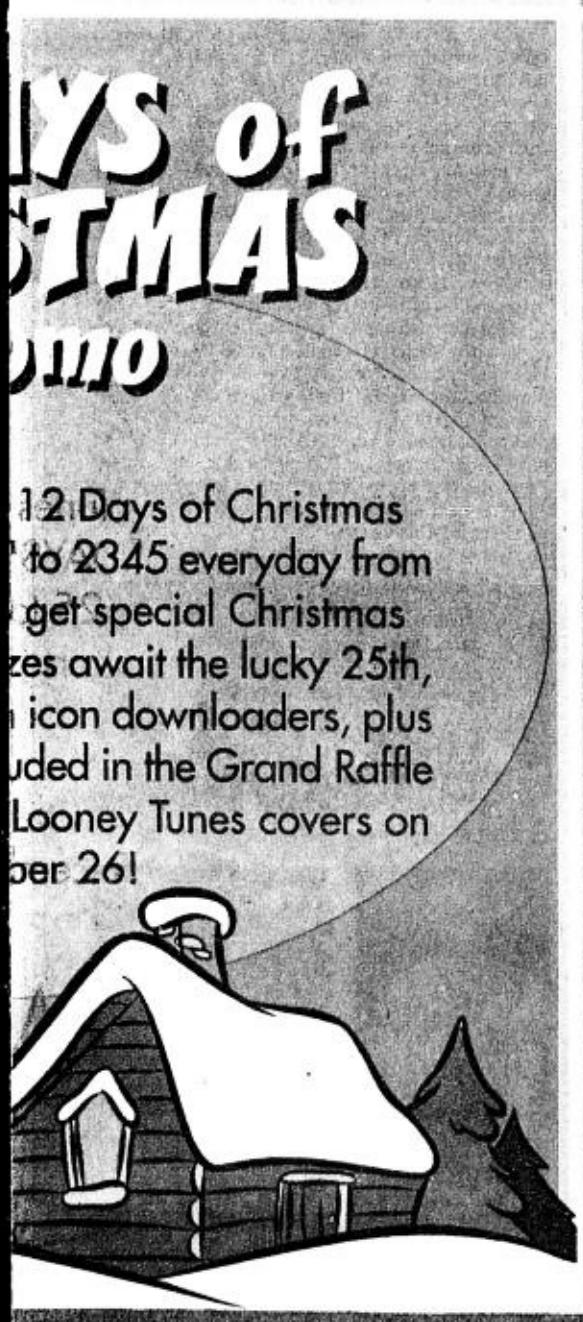
12 DAYS ICONS

Icons



1. Type in L KEYWORD EXAMPLE: L DAFFY31
2. SEND TO 2345 and wait for Tone

To send Tone to your friend's Nokia mobile phone:
Type in L KEYWORD 09179876543 (where 9876543 is your friend's Globe Handyphone number), and send to 2345



Joining is easy!

1. Download a Looney Tunes icon starting December 14 to 25 by sending the keyword "12days" to 2345 - there will be one assigned Looney Tunes icon per day. For every successful download a participant earns an electronically-generated and recorded raffle entry for a chance to win a Looney Tunes doll for the lucky 25th, 100th, 200th and 300th entry. They can also win a Nokia 3330 Prepaid Plus phonekit with two Looney Tunes covers via raffle draw.
2. The winners of both the Nokia 3330 Prepaid Plus phonekit with two Looney Tunes covers and Looney Tunes dolls will be drawn on December 26, 2001. A DTI representative shall be invited to witness the activity. Only Globe Handyphone subscribers who downloaded a "12days" icon from December 14 to 25 will qualify. All subscribers who downloaded a "12days" icon during the promo period qualify for the grand raffle.
3. The grand raffle draw will be held at WSA Office Unit 102 Alabang Business Tower, 1216 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa. Winners will be notified by a registered mail and will be called on their winning Globe Handyphones. Prizes may be claimed from the Globe Telecom office, 4th Flr. Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong starting December 27, 2001. Winners need to bring a valid ID with picture and the winning SIM card when claiming their prize. Claiming is good until 60 days from receipt of notification.
4. Promo is for Globe Handyphone subscribers who are Metro Manila residents only. Previous winners can win again. Prizes are not covertible to cash.
5. All employees of Globe Telecom, Harrison Communications, Wireless Services Asia including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4256, Series of 2001

GIRL scout Barbie struts her stuff.

DINO Lloren's Cebu "Sex in the City" collection

"THIS is life," says Hans Montenegro to Miriam Quiambao.

TOP model Charity bar[illegible]ne at Dino Ll[illegible]how

ABS threesome of Andrea del Rosario, Gabby Lopez and Michelle Bayle

SIMPLY AMAZING. "SMartin" Nievera with Boy Martirez and Mon Isberto at the launch of Martin as Smart's latest endorser

INDUSTRY ICONS. Mimit Zialcita and Raul Castro in Yohji Yamamoto

I survived Cebu—and how!

The Ad Congress with its meetings, awards, Martin Nievera concert and dionysian parties was one great carousal of the senses

WITH A GRAND jungle-themed awards night, countless concerts, a flurry of "millionaire-luring" game shows and post-parties, the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress shebang in Cebu was worth the hangover, if only for the discipline it appeared to have instilled among the delegates. The participants partied all night, then attended meetings and showed up at the sessions, and manned the booths all day long—that was the Ad Congress delegate's lifestyle.

HAPPY WITH HER MAN. Joey Mead with boyfriend Richard Lee

Industry icons and advertising executives hobnobbed with students, celebrities hanged out with their Cebuano pals and hopped from one frenzied affair to the other. Mine started as soon as I descended on the Mactan airport, where I was welcomed by smart Smart execs **Ruth Tadeo** and **Nick Wilwayco**, as the telecoms giant was a major sponsor of the congress. We went straight to the Cebu Plaza gardens, where the Smart sponsored "Wild on Cebu!" was held to welcome the delegates.

The food, arranged in different stalls all over the venue, was composed of delectable Cebuano delights, *kilawin*, *lechon* and more, plus the ubiquitous fish ball stands, so that everyone could say "*Manong, ang sarap ng* balls!" The one who popularized that line, **Joey Mead**, was onstage with **Claudine Trillo**. Aside from the nearly naked Smart guys and dolls providing eye candy, nothing much was wild about the party. "They should change the W to M in 'Wild On!'" said a J. Walter Thompson exec, upon leaving.

The next few days would take us party-hopping from our Waterfront Hotel base to Queen City of the South's hip spots at Ayala Center, the Village and Crossroads, among other hot spots. We checked out

Tim Yap

some bands at The Abbey, enjoyed the relaxed concert atmosphere at Ratsky, grooved to the DJs' beats at Vudu and Block One Seven, raised the roof at Soap and Zero Below and just went with the whole Cebu social swirl.

Each trip of mine to Cebu yields new surprises. Cebu is never stagnant, always pumping with new life and urban excitement. Mi Vida is its fiesta place of the moment, where parytphiles jump atop the bar and gyrate to the Latin rhythms—something different in the hoi polloi of electronic music madness.

Martin's Smart surprise

Interesting how our Southern siblings were able to really plan out their party areas. Segregating them into different zones and putting a little of everything in each district—from small quaint restos that dish out international eats, chill bars and dance clubs that churn out everything from R&B to progressive tunes—how's that for "target market"?

The weekend had **Martin Nievera** doing a Smart surprise. The latest Smart man was armed with a song he composed for the telecoms company—"Simply Amazing"—which was launched via a jam-packed concert at Crossroads.

"I've gotten Smart now," shouted the Madman. The event was witnessed by well-loved Smart bosses **Boy Martirez**, **Miles Inocentes**, **Julie Carceller** and **Mon Isberto** who joined Talk n' Text pals **Guido Zaballero** and **Rezza Custodio**, who was with the Whattamen trio of endorsers and other sizzling celebrities who dropped by for the musical treat.

SURVIVOR SPECIAL. Lana Asanin welcomes you to the jungle

The climax—after several game shows that gave out cash (in US dollars, at that), luxury items (Rolex watches and cars), trips (which included European cruises), and even a house and lot!—was the Araw Awards night, with the ad agencies doing a grand costume parade to kick off the nominations. "It's a great endeavor, it brings us together and inspires us to do better," said **Mimit Zialcita** and **Raul Castro**, two inimitable icons of the ad industry during cocktails.

The after-awards parties had people celebrating—with San Miguel Beer showers on the dance floor at some parties—all the way till morning, after which some delegates headed straight to the airport to go back to Manila. Crazy? Well, with partyphiles (creatives, accounts and otherwise) from the ad agencies and their friends, what did you expect?

The scene this week

TONIGHT at 7 is the grand opening party of Fitness First in the Philippines, the third largest health club operator in the world. It is located on the 8th floor of Robinson Summit Building on Ayala Avenue. This is just what we need—a health club with great equipment and nonprohibitive price points, value for money, not to mention a perfect item for that New Year's resolution for fitness.

Let me use this space to greet two people I admire—**Jon Jon Rufino**, whose birthday falls on the 13th, and **Ricco Ocampo**, who turns a year younger on the 14th. Friday is marked for **Rajo Laurel**, who has had a very colorful year—he hosts a get-together to launch his book at Alliance Francaise at 5:30 p.m.—expect more surprises from this style star—providing truth to the adage, "You can't put a good man down."

Saturday, mark your calendars for three party dates. Wherelse and Big Fish bring HK DJ **Roy Malig** in an event dubbed "Winter Rush @ Wherelse." Ready your fur and thick jackets as Wherelse is transformed into a winter wonderland of lasers, dancers and snow. **DJ Roy** will play tech-trance, progressive, tribal and break beats. No skis, please.

That date also marks 78 Orange's second anniversary. This "Strictly Members Only" formal party hosts an open bar from 10 p.m.-12 mn. That spicy Saturday also has **DJ Buff Wise** of Ibiza's Manumission Live in Manila! He will be at Famous Mike's Sports Bar (famous who?), 9 p.m. onward. "Po Na Na black card members get P50 off the gate," says **Butch Pena**, the man behind Libis' hippest establishment.

With that, let me be the first to greet you, partyphiles, with Gift Gate's "Can't Stop Christmas" as inspiration, an advanced happy Christmas!

MULTIAWARDED. Manny del Rosario, Dino Ocampo, Atom Henares and Johanna Jacinto at The Abbey

AT MI VIDA. Rico Yan with Maxine

MY favorite Cebuana Mani Osmeña with award-winning Robbie Dinglasan

LOW-KEY Cebuano royalty JP Chiongbian and Glenn Soco

CEBU COUPLING. Martin Lopez and Butch Carunggay

DOUBLE happiness for BBDO's Brandy Tan

FIGHTING FORM. Dino Lloren takes a bow.

"HELLO, Billy? This is Grasya's boyfriend from the States."

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

WHERELSE but in Cebu? Marcel Crespo, Jon Jon Osmeña and Ruth Tadeo of Smart

BOY BAND. James Blanco and Russel C Mon

STYLE PALS. Carrie Bitanga and Aimee Murillo

Like relationships, warm food is more satisfiying and filling. And what better way to heat food than use a **3D smart Wave**. Not only do you get good hot food, you still have a little more time left for some romance.

3D
For quality you can trust

3D SMART WAVE
Something good is always cooking

• Digital Pre-Set Clock • Auto Defrost System • Weight Defrost • With Timer • Power Level Express Indicator • Child Safety Lock • Auto Reminder • Rotary Tray

No-brainer gift ideas for the cash-strapped

BY PAM PASTOR

For the bankruptcy-prone, the way out of the tight fix of Christmas is to get creative

UNLIKE what carols tell us, not everyone looks forward to Christmas. In fact, quite a lot of people dread the holidays. The reason for this is simple—gift-giving. Yes, what used to be a well-loved tradition has turned into an occasion for stress and anxiety—especially for those who do not sleep on a bed of moolah. In this society where not giving gifts is almost unthinkable, one cannot blame people for feeling pressured. Here, 2bU! attempts to relieve a bit of the tension by coming out with a list of ideas for homemade Christmas gifts, which are ideal for the creative, perfect for the almost peso-less.

Search for the perfect picture. Look through your albums and find a nice picture of you and your intended recipient. Get a frame or, if you can't afford it, make one out of wood or cardboard and add your own touch by using glitter, paint and ribbons. If you're not the type who likes giving frames (some people find this majorly cheesy), do not fret. There are still tons of ideas to choose from.

Tacked memory haven. Create a bulletin board for your loved one. Buy a corkboard from a bookstore and cut it into the shape and size desired. Personalize it. Use paint to decorate it and add the first few mementos—could be ticket stubs from a movie or concert you watched, an old Neoprint, a picture or a nice note from you.

Make their mouths water. Get nice tin containers and fill these with cookies or brownies that you have baked.

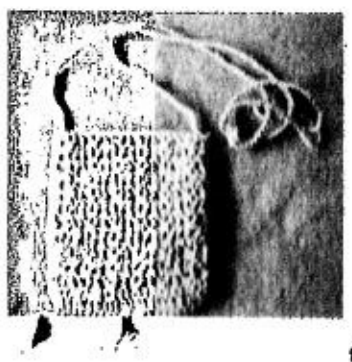
Personalized booklets. Look through magazines, newspapers and even e-zines, then clip or print out articles that you think your friend would love to read. Compile these by sticking them in a scrapbook or putting them in a clearbook (don't forget creative add-ons), wrap nicely, top off with a ribbon and you're ready for Christmas.

Write a letter—a good one. Or create a homemade card. In this age where hardly anyone receives snail mail, a good tangible letter would certainly be appreciated.

Go scrapbook crazy. I know, I know, ancient idea and all. But hey, who doesn't appreciate receiving a gift that was well-planned and toiled over? Maybe you can just focus your scrapbook on the year that was. That way, if you run out of good gift ideas next year, you can do another edition.

Feel like getting yearbook-happy? Remember Melissa Joan Hart's character in "Can't Hardly Wait." Be exactly like her. Only this time, get people to write down messages for your recipient. Get a nice notebook and decorate it. Make sure you write on the first page (or the last if you believe in the "save the best for last" principle), and have other people write, too, like a friend or relative. Just make sure these people are significant to your recipient's life. Otherwise, you might as well dump this gift idea in the garbage bin.

Lick-worthy, chocolate-y Christmas spoons. Buy nice, colorful plastic spoons. Make sure they're sturdy. And please, drop the plastic remnants from your fast-food takeouts. Come on, live a little! Melt chunks of chocolate in a double boiler. (Chocolate chips will work just fine, but for those on a really tight budget, most chocolate factories here sell blocks of their goodies for low, low prices. You just have to know where to look.) Dip the spoons in chocolate, make sure even part of the handle is covered. Don't scrimp, there has to be a puddle of chocolate on the spoon. Lay the dipped spoons of wax paper and sprinkle them with crushed candy canes (most supermarkets are selling them by this time) or any other candy that you wish. When the chocolate hardens, wrap the spoons individually with cellophane and tie with ribbons. Give in bouquets.



Spread happiness with jars of joy. Buy nice jars (they have a pretty good selection in Landmark) and fill them with your recipient's favorite candies, marshmallows, nuts and bite-sized chocolates. These jars would be perfect for the office or study table or any other place where your recipient would need a quick sugar fix.

Hand them baskets of love. Fill these baskets up with goodies—fruits, chips and anything else that you think they would appreciate. Spruce up the baskets nicely.

If you're the official photographer... If you've snapped tons of pictures of you and your friends the past year but have neglected to give them copies, this is the perfect time for you to hand them over. Create mini-albums for your friends. Don't forget the witty captions—they'll definitely be a plus.

Invade the kitchen. Bake cakes and pies or cook your specialties and give them to friends. Logic is required here—make sure the food you cook doesn't spoil easily.

Music mania. Create mix tapes. If your budget is slightly bigger, CDs are a better choice. Choose the person's favorite songs, add voice-overs and make an eye-catching cover.

For the techie freaks. If you're constantly online and have gotten pretty good at handling your mouse and keyboard, create websites for your loved ones. There's an endless list of sites that provide free Web space. Try Geocities (www.geocities.com), Gurlpages (www.gurlpages.com) or Xoom (www.xoom.com) for starters. You may create online shrines, photo albums, etc.

Sketch away. If you're good at drawing, create masterpieces for your loved ones and frame them.

Free the rock star in you. If you're musically inclined, write a song and record it. If you're not a gifted songwriter, cover someone else's creation—preferably the person's favorite song—and record it. Just make sure you don't botch the song up. You want your recipient to be happy, not pissed.

Brandish your pen. Those with the gift of words may write poems or stories. Who doesn't love reading about themselves anyway?

Coupon extravaganza. Yes, yes, another old idea, but this one will never cease to be fun. Create coupons for redeemable favors. Clueless? Try a free car wash, a long kiss, a good massage, a foot rub, a freshly baked batch of cookies, dinner out, etc. Two reminders—make sure you don't mix the coupons up and that when the times comes, you're 100 percent absolutely sure that you can deliver.

If the recipient is a Picasso-in-the-making... buy a sketch pad and drawing pencils. Add a note and wrap in bright colors.

Likewise, if the recipient's passion is writing... buy a nice notebook. Don't forget to inscribe something on the first page. Writers will never have enough notebooks, believe me.

Therapeutic kits. If the recipient is constantly busy and is in dire need of chill-out time, create a little therapy kit. Put nylon, threading needles, colorful DMC threads, crayons, clay—things that will keep hands busy while relaxing the mind. Include a small booklet of things they can do with the therapy kit.

Mugs aren't all that bad. If you do something about them, that is. Mugs might just be the most generic gift there is—and most people hate receiving them. You can change this attitude by putting more thought into mugs you will give out. Fill them up with little trinkets or goodies that will make your recipient's day.

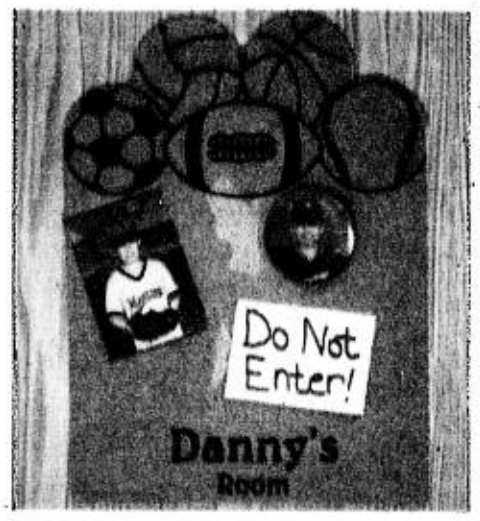
Go on a stitching frenzy. If you're a skilled sewer, create little bags for your friends. Cute little cell phone bags might just be the perfect thing for them. If you're a knitter, then by all means, knit away.

Spruce shirts up. Get plain shirts and add your own wacky designs by using fabric paint, glitter, beads, etc. Just make sure they're wearable.

Pampering packages. Get a basket and fill this up with toiletries needed for pampering one's self. Powder, lotion, nail polish, cologne, etc. This is perfect for selfless recipients who live their lives for others and have hardly any time for themselves.

You may use these ideas on their own or combine them. One important thing, make sure you're having fun while preparing your gifts. Not being a Grinch may just be the perfect gift you can give your loved ones.

E-mail the author at cookiedoughjunkie@yahoo.com.



FISH RALLY. A massive protest action is being held in Philippine waters against the harm caused by illegal and destructive fishing practices. The organizers need your support

Christmas blowout

You owe yourself a lot.

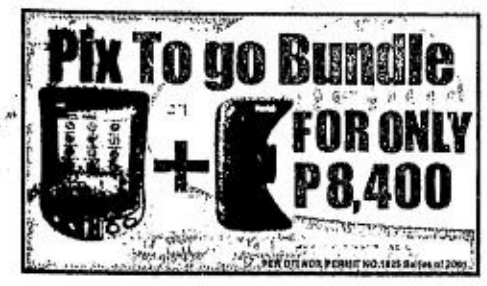
Gigs
Bars
Restaurants
Bands
Movie Skeds
Pinoy Auctions
Showbiz Buzz
Prepaid Reload
e-Store
e-Bili
GenTxt
Sureseats
Bidshot.com

Get Together with Globe

A few clicks on myGlobe and you get the hottest gimmicks, the best deals, the latest buzz.
Reward yourself, you deserve it. Look under these categories: Entertainment • Shopping

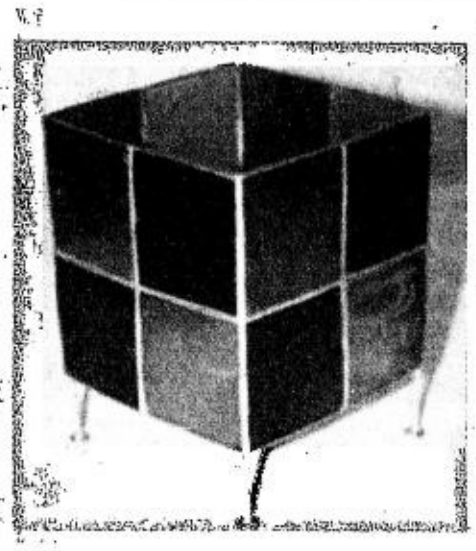
Text MYGLOBE to 2365 and open a world of mobile e-services with no limits.
Everything is neatly organized into categories for easy access. You can get into myGlobe with your Globe Handyphone anytime, from anywhere using whatever cellphone model or SIM you have now. Or log on to www.myglobe.com.ph.

'Tis the season for myGlobe
mobile e-services
NO LIMITS



For feedback or suggestions ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE



to be you • to be young • To be you! • to be young • 2bU

Ultimate gift guide

Sweating over choosing presents for your loved ones? 2bU! helps you pick goodies to fill up the stockings of your mom, dad, significant other, boss, teacher, friends and the little kids in your life. (Bankrupt? Check out our ideas for homemade gifts in C7)

BUST LIFTING AND AUGMENTATION

FEEL GOOD. LOOK GOOD. BOOST YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE.

TRUST ONLY THE EXPERT CARE BY A COSMETIC SURGEON!

- Warts Removal (Painless)
- Scar Revision
- Peeling and
- Body Bleaching
- Eyebag Removal
- Nose Lift
- Dermabrasion
- Varicose Vein
- Liposuction
- Double Eyelid

Enhance COSMETIC SURGERY & SKIN CARE CENTER

THE SM CITY NORTH EDSA
Annex Bldg. Basement Level
Tel. No.: 920-9205
Credit Card Accepted!

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

IMELDA PAPIN
In Concert

Universal Records presents the much-anticipated album release from one of local pop's most enduring icons.

Dec. 16, Sunday, 4PM
Orosa Atrium
Robinsons Place Manila

ROBINSONS Place MANILA
Visit us at www.robinsonsland.com

WEIGH LESS CENTER

MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP

- WEIGHT LOSS
- DERMATOLOGY
- ROSY PEEL
- PLASTIC & COSMETIC SURGERY
- ANTI-AGEING
- SKIN WHITENING

Free use of day spa and massage when you enrol*

WEIGH LESS CENTER & SPA, 31-G Roces Ave., Q.C.
CLINICA MANILA, 2F Bldg A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, Mkt.
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, Basement Level, SM North, Q.C.
• 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
• BINONDO 2nd Flr. 434 Paramount Bldg., Paredes St.
ALABANG BRANCH, 2nd Flr. Festival Supt. (Ala Forest Entrance)
• Clinic Hours: Tues & Thurs 1-3 Pm
MINDANAO AVENUE BRANCH, 2F Rands Bldg., Mindanao Ave., Q.C.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
PAMPANGA CLINIC, O.Y. O Bldg., 2nd Flr. 212 B Mendoza St. San Fernando Pampanga • Clinic Hours: Wed & Fri 1-5 Pm

please call for more details*
371-8886 / 371-8887 / 373-0766 / 374-2437 / 373-3365 / 373-3366
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT*

Now, more reasons why the BPI Express Cash is the merriest Christmas gift you can give.

It's the perfect card for non-stop shopping and dining...

Your family and friends can flash the BPI Express Cash in over 20,000 MasterCard Electronic establishments nationwide.

...for cash withdrawals through the ATM...

With the BPI Express Cash, they can withdraw and do balance inquiries through any BPI or BPI Family Bank Express Teller ATM, just in time for Christmas!

...and for reloading any Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus!

The BPI Express Cash can even be used to reload the Globe Handyphone with airtime credits ... just by texting.

News Flash! Get this card FREE!
It's the new specially-designed Express Cash Card with P100 worth of FREE airtime credits when you buy a Globe Handyphone Prepaid kit at selected Globe Business Centers in GMMA.

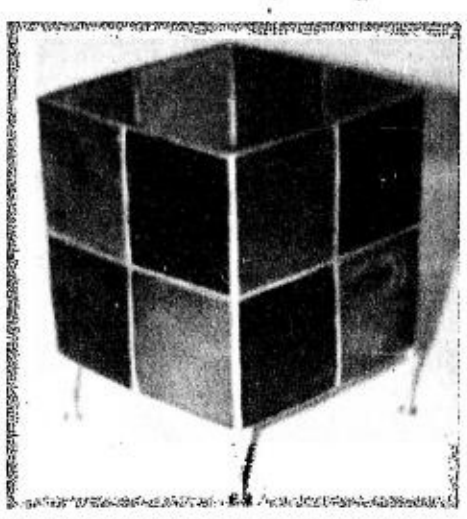
Give it in style!
For an additional P25, we'll toss in a special Hallmark greeting card with your BPI Express Cash Card! No need to wrap it up!

Get a BPI Express Cash Card now for the people you love! Just call BPI Express Phone 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. You may also visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank GMMA branch.

NEW BPI Express Cash it's cash you can flash!

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Gifts Mom would keep and use

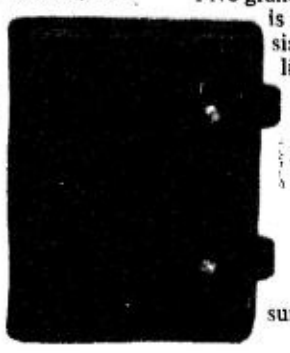


CAPIZ square lampshade, P306 from Mano-Mano

BY KRISTINE CHING
Contributor

YOU barely have two weeks, and you still haven't gotten your mom a Christmas present. In fact, you haven't any idea what to give her. Some friends would likely suggest that you give something that you would also be able to use like a moisturizer.

Knowing that Moms usually keep what their sons or daughters give them, here are some things that your mom would not just leave to collect dust on the shelves.



P5000 and up

Five grand is a lot, especially as the country is in the middle of an economic crisis. You can buy a lot with P5,000 like real jewelry from China town (center for cheap but real jewelry) or Greenhills. If you want your mom to keep abreast of technology, buy her a cell phone or get her a subscription plan in one of the leading phone companies. For those who have corporate Moms, get her a Palm Pilot, or a tailored suit (but then it wouldn't be a surprise).

P1000-P4999

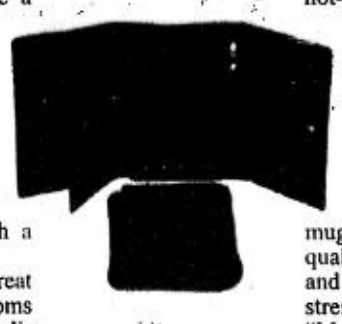
With this kind of budget, you can buy a lot of luxury items for your mom—leather bags, wallets, envelope, etc. Anything leather (although I doubt she would appreciate leather pants...), if you're generous enough, you can give her sets like a leather bag with a matching wallet.

If you're mom's a wide reader, there are great books from Power books and Page One. Moms usually appreciate self-help, inspirational, religious, cookbooks and coffee-table books. Give her a gift subscription of her favorite magazine. Not only will she be happy, but she'll get her favorite magazine before it hits the newsstands. A complete gift set from Essences, or Beauty Bar would be very rewarding for your mom. She deserves major pampering after looking after you!

P500-P999

A small gift set from Body Shop, Beauty Bar and U (preferably for unique gift items). Sets of original CDs of her favorite music genre or artist. Small bags, or leather wallets would also do. Bags from *tiangge* or fancy accessories. (If you can't afford the real thing, then get the next best thing!) Small ready-made projects like Paper Tole, if you don't have the time to make one. Paperback cookbooks or current bestsellers will also be appreciated.

COPPER Elemental, tabletop fountain. P3,989.75 from A Different Bookstore Home Decor



LEATHER, LEATHER. No pants here.

P200-P499

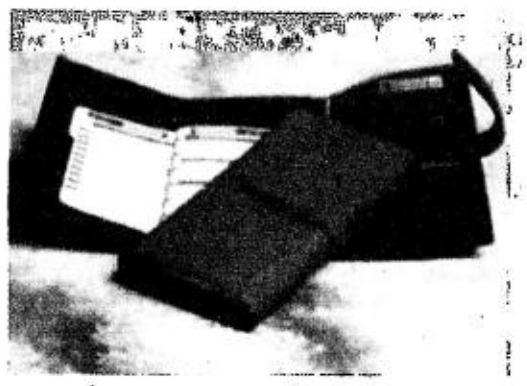
For the non-craftsperson, do-it-yourself kits from craft shops like Craft World, Heavenly Stitchin' Moments and Stitches & Things. These are boxes of things you need to do a craft project like a miniature kitchen, or a cross-stitch project. Bigger patterns for Paper Tole are available but you'll need more than a month to finish the whole thing if you're not an expert.

I personally prefer these do-it-yourself kits, not because they're cheap, but because, in a way, making the gift gives more meaning to it. Those who don't have the time to make anything, you can get your mom a nice pen (a not-so-popular brand but nice enough to come with case) and have her name engraved on it.

P100-P199

For someone of limited resources, you can either opt for homemade, do-it-yourself kits, or cheap (with good quality, of course) gifts. You can also choose everyday stuff that your mom can use like mugs, or makeup sets in *tiangge* (although their quality, or if they are safe to use is uncertain) and scented candles to revive her spirits after a stressful day. Small inspirational books like "Mom's Little Instructions Book" or "coupon booklets" that will allow her to redeem goodies or services any day and time from specialty bookstores (Power Books, Page One and Humour Post).

E-mail the author at xLady_Ivoryx@yahoo.co.uk



CATCH THE LAST SHOPPING HURRAH!
GMA & Cal present
credit cards accepted
Plus UCPB ATM Van for your cash convenience!
NOEL
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
MANILA POLO CLUB
DECEMBER 15-16
8AM-9PM
OVER 130 PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS!
SHOP FROM A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS:
antiques/furniture • artwork • baby stuff • bags • baskets • books & magazines • cakes & pastries • candles & soaps • ceramics • children's clothes • crochet & embroidery fashion & personal accessories • flowers & plants • furniture • handicrafts • holiday décor • home décor • jewelry leather goods • men & women's clothing paper products • perfumes • quilts • tours & travel • shell crafts shoes • specialty food • stoneware/terracotta • linen • toys woodcraft • woven/ethnic products and other exquisite products
INQUIRER
GREPALIFE
PACIFIC PLANS
PHILSCAPE INC.
Point of The Pacific
NEXTEL
MEGA
Village home
NOEL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR clip this coupon, grab a friend and get in for FREE!
MANILA POLO CLUB • Forbes Park, Makati • DEC 15-16 • 8AM-9PM
EVENT MANAGER:
Cut Unlimited, Inc.
Tel. Nos. 620-4328
Email: eventsonly@edsamail.com.ph
FOR THE BENEFIT OF BANTAYOG NG MGA BAYANI FOUNDATION

Canon
BF ko? 'Di plastic... can afford pa!
PRIMA BF-800
That's my Canon Prima BF-800. Glass ang lens nito, hindi plastic. So I get clearer, sharper images each time I click! Loaded na with advanced features, reach ko pa ang price. Kaya click na click kami ng BF ko.
REGULAR PRICE: P3,995
SPECIAL OFFER P1,995
Comes with free case, Kodak Max 36EXP and 2pcs. Photolife Alkaline AA battery
Promo Period: August 24 to December 31, 2001
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1234 Series of 2001
28 mm wide-angle lens • Big viewfinder • Fully automatic • Large LCD display • Powerful 3 way flash • Red-eye reduction • Self-timer • Built-in lens cover
BE PROTECTED!
Always demand for the CANON WARRANTY CARD issued by SUPER EAST ASIA ENTERPRISES, INC.
Exclusive Philippine Distributor:
SUPER EAST ASIA ENTERPRISES, INC.
17/F, Riviera Mansion, A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila Tel Nos. 524-4604 Fax: 524-4810 Email: se_asia@quantumweb.net
CANON CAMERA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE NETWORK (PHILS.)
Headquarters G/F Philflex Bldg., 407 Dasmariñas St., Sta. Cruz, Tel. No. 242-2647
CANON CAMERA SHOWROOMS:
SM Megamall Tel. No. 635-6038 • SM City North Edsa Tel. No. 920-0065 • SM City Manila Tel. No. 522-6250 • SM Southmall Tel. No. 805-0409 • SM City Cebu Tel. No. (032) 234-0478 • SM City Iloilo Tel. No. (033) 320-1957
CANON MARKETING PHILIPPINES INC.
AVAILABLE AT BETTER CAMERA SHOPS AND DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE

Gifts for Dad

COMPILED BY GILES IVAN A. AQUINO
Don Bosco Mandaluyong

P100

Lighter—This is a good find in Greenhills. Although it is not the year of the dragon, this is still a perfect gift for Dads who could use it once in a while to light a cigar. It's not that we're promoting smoking here, but lighters can also be handy for outdoor family activities.

P200

Polo—Who would think that there is still a polo shirt worth 200 bucks? Of course, nothing can beat the "*tiangge*" of Greenhills. A white shirt is the safest choice, perhaps next to black. You can have Dad wear it the next time you challenge him in billiards or maybe basketball.

P500

Belt—Not really bad. Dad could wear it for the next two years. If Dad were a corporate exec, then I think black would be the best choice. But, corporate or not, Dad would probably not mind as long as he has the right shoe color.

P1,000

Socket wrench set—Most dads love to fix almost everything they see in a state of disrepair, from electric wirings to pipes. And yes, your family car. A 40-piece socket wrench set could be of great help when tire problems arise. You don't want to ruin your camping trip. Do you?

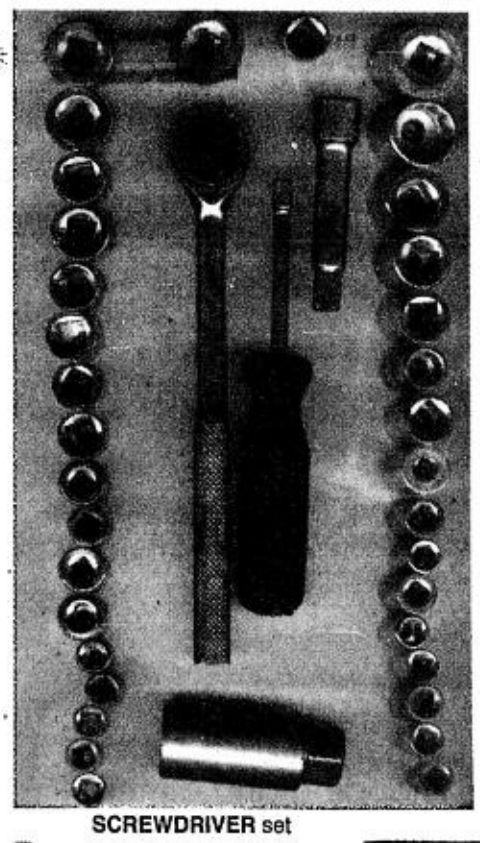
P5,000

Fishing pole—The best thing about camping is fishing. Help Dad have a big catch by gifting him with a fish pole. Of course, you may smell something fishy about Dad, especially if he's into other kinds of fish.

P5,000 and up

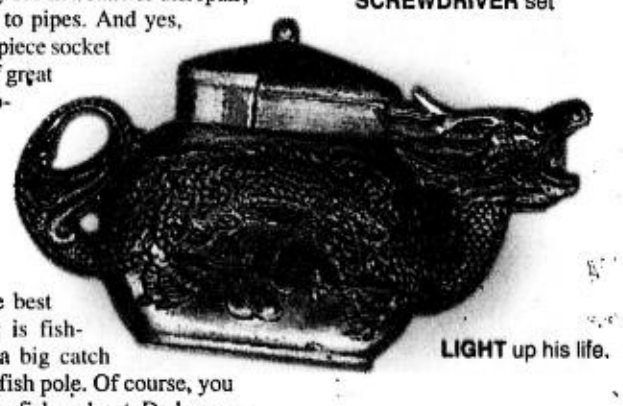
Video camera—If Dad loves taking pictures, then he will probably also love taking videos. Amounting to P19,000 nothing can beat the unforgettable memories this gadget can capture. It could be the birth of your little brother or sister, your graduation, a school play where you starred, or Mom and Dad's 50th anniversary!

E-mail the author at giaquino@edsamail.com.ph.



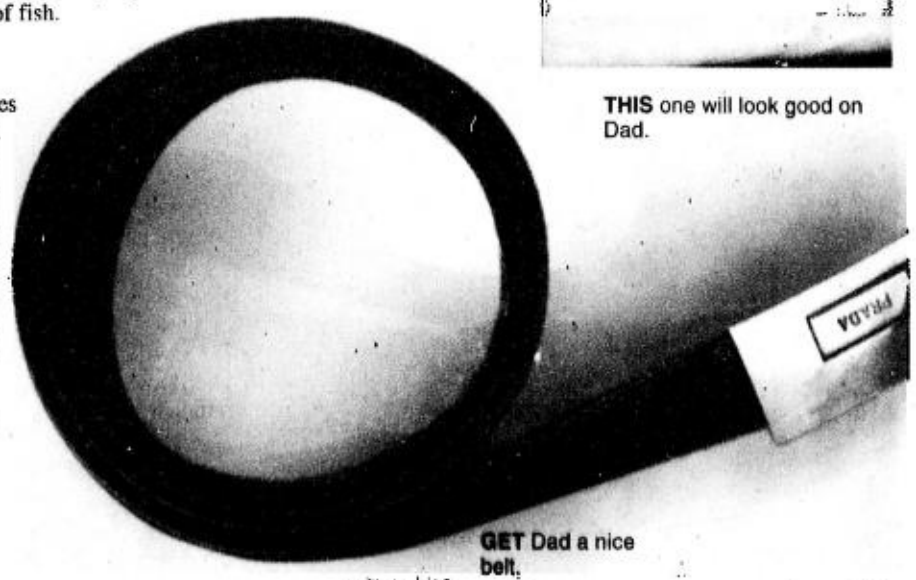
SCREWDRIVER set

Some ideas to make the foremost man in your life happy this Christmas



LIGHT up his life.

THIS one will look good on Dad.



GET Dad a nice belt.

"HARRY Potter" toys

Gifts for hard-to-please kids

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

KIDS are pickier than adults ("I want the limited edition "Star Wars" Han Solo doll with the millennium falcon..."). Worse, they also tell you exactly how they feel about a gift when expressing their gratitude ("Thanks, but I don't like this, *bleh*!").

We can either stop spoiling the kids or continue to indulge them with big presents just for one day of *lambingan*.

This year it's quite tough to choose gifts for kids since our money does not have the same value as before and there's no "hot toy" this year (nothing after the Gameboy colors, the Tickle-Me-Elmos, Digimons) aside from the "Harry Potter" items, which are not complete here.

Here's a little help from a kid stuck in an 18-year-old body.

P100 and below

A bit tough, but there's actually a lot to buy besides plastic toys that are quite nice but not that amusing to the kids.

"Goosebumps" pocket book, P49.50 each.

Magazines—Candy, Meg (for your kid sister who can't wait).

Fast-food children's meals—Happy Meal, Kiddie Meal, Chuckie Meal, etc. They might be cheap but the toys that come with them are really great, and collector's items, too.

"Harry Potter"—Merit Pocket pack "Bertie Botts," P19.50.

"Powerpuff Girls" school supplies (notebooks, pencil books, etc.) at P100 and below.

"Powerpuff Girls" pillows (check the *tiangge*).

P200

"Harry Potter" movie trading cards, P129.75 a pack.

"Harry Potter" trading game boosters, P199.75.

Quidditch Cup card game, P199.75.

Hello Kitty school supplies.

P500

The perfect budget, not too much or too little. But you really have to look around for that perfect gift.

"Harry Potter" motion-activated key chains, P289.75.

"Barbie in the Nutcracker" VCD, VHS, P295.

"The Princess Diaries" books.

"Harry Potter" figurines, P449.75.

P1,000

A better budget, of course! You can buy one popular toy like the new action figurines or two nice gifts and probably still have some money left for cool gift-wrapping.

"Powerpuff" dolls, play sets and clothes.

"Harry Potter" trading card game starter set, P699.75.

Subscription to Meg and Candy magazines.

"Harry Potter" fluffy action game, P999.75.

Trendmasters Storm Waterguns, P649.75.

"Shrek" DVD.

Monsters Inc. Sulley, Boo, Mike Wazowski plush doll (the small one).

P5,000 below

This is too much for a kid unless you're thinking of Veruca Salt or Dudley Dursley.

"Harry Potter" magic spell challenge, P1,299.75.

"Harry Potter" levitating challenge, P1,999.75.

Pokedex deluxe, P1499.75.

Me-Mom-mo (a very cool interactive learning machine by Tiger electronics), P3,799.75.

Barbie "I dream of Jeanie" (expensive but collector's item and way better than Malibu Barbie), P2,999.75.

Nokia 5110i.

Monsters Inc. dolls, P2,000+.

If you want to go above P5,000, there are at least two possibilities: Vtech Vapor, P5,999.75 (now kids can have their own Palm Pilots), and GameBoy Advance, P5,999.75-P6,999.75

Recommend stores: Toy Kingdom SM Megamall, SM Southmall; Kid Station Shangri-La and Rockwell; Rustan's toy section, Pocket Collector G4, Powerbooks Makati and Megamall, www.myayala.com.

Teen Tees
Strikingly simple
To see is to believe.
ARTWORK boutiques
We're now in Robinsons Place - Metro East (Dela Paz, Pasig)
SM Supermalls (SM City - North Edsa • SM City - Fairview • Southmall - Las Piñas • SM City - Bacoor SM City - Cebu • SM City - Iloilo • SM City - Davao) • Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall • Robinsons Place - Metro East (de la Paz, Pasig) • Robinsons Place - Bacolod • Tutuban Center Mall • Festival Mall (Filinvest Alabang) /Soon to open: • Starmills (Robinsons - San Fernando, Pampanga) • Robinson Place - Iloilo

www.my-siemens.com
SIEMENS
What color is your personality?
Clearly, a mobile phone that suits your personality. With it, you can change CLIPit™ covers and download different icons and ringer melodies via SMS. So you can customize your phone to what you want. The way you want.
• Changeable CLIPit™ covers in different colors to suit your personality
• Over-The-Air (OTA) download of your favorite icons, graphics and melodies
• Quick access to My Menu for frequent used functions
• Exciting new games including the action-packed BM Kung-Fu
• Group SMS
• Early birthday reminder so you can send the birthday boy or girl a special SMS greeting
C45
Be inspired
ORIENTAL BLUE Honesty and loyalty are two of the traits a true blue lover is known for. Prove it by getting this color!
FRESH LEMON Full of hope, joy and love. Lucky you for being so youthful and free. Let them be green with envy owning this one.
HOT MAGMA You are strong and full of passion. Others look up to you and love everything that makes up your personality, including the phone you choose.
LIGHT STEEL Sleek in look and yet has a calming effect because the strength of steel that lies in the essence of your personality.
SHINING PEARL You are pure and simple, but also a gem that will not shy away from a chance to be in the spotlight. The time is now. Shine baby, shine!

Gift ideas for your significant other

BY JULES ALCANTARA

"THE VERY best for your loved one," so goes the popular tag line of a card company. And if that loved one is your significant other (meaning it could be your boyfriend/girlfriend or that one hottie you have a crush on), then the meaning of the phrase "the best" can either give you sleepless nights of cooking up a scheme to surprise him/her or dig a deep hole in your pocket.

Don't miss out on the opportunity of being his/her Santa this holiday season!

It's the thought—and the heart—that count!

BUDGET: P200 below

For him:
- Beer Mug (large, black ceramic mug), P25
- Pillow (cute design, various neon colors) P100

Practical Stuff, Gift Gate
- Neoprint (of yourself, 1 big copy and 15 small ones), P100
- Piglet Mug (cute adorable design, ceramic), P65

Gift Gate
- Almond Soap (240 g), P100
- Herbed Butter Soap (240 g), P 100
- Silver thermal flask (in various neon colors), P125
- Hair Factor Gel (Strong Grip, water-based), P 69
- Cotton Baseball Cap (available in navy blue, khaki), P198

Human

For her:
- Scents and Blends Body Splash, P119
- Scents and Blends Body Lotion, P35
- Bobbie Teens Tuti Fruti Hand and Body Lotion, P 35
- Winnie the Pooh Ceramic Mug, P65
- Winnie the Pooh Ceramic Photo Frame, P 60

Gift Gate
- Ladies Hand Bags (various trendy designs to choose from), P100

Practical Stuff, Gift Gate
- Zen Zest Foot Spray and Foot Soak, P200
- Zen Zest Body Spray and Bead Bracelet Gift Pack, P200

Zen Zest
- Pretty When Pinched Liquid Blush and Colored Lip Gloss, P198

Herbench, Bench
- Brat Splash Kiwi Frost cologne and Alcogel, P109

Bench
- Clear Plastic Cosmetic Box, P150

Tickles

BUDGET: P200 above-P1,000 below

For him:
- "The Lord of the Rings Trilogy" at P279 (each book)
- " A Painted House" by John Grisham P319

National Bookstore
- Black aviator shades P 398

Bench
- Side-strapped pajama bottoms in blue and white stripes P445

All Boxed Up
- Smorgasbear Brown Puppy stuffed toy, P265

Gift Gate
- Hanging animal stuffed toys, P 395

Tickles
- Toiletries organizer in canvass with mirror (black and beige), P400

The Store Co.
- Men's ID silver bracelet, P898

Silverworks
- Light Blue V-Neck sweater P 995
- Beige Long Sleeves polo shirt P995

Benetton
- Shoe organizer (20 compartments), P700

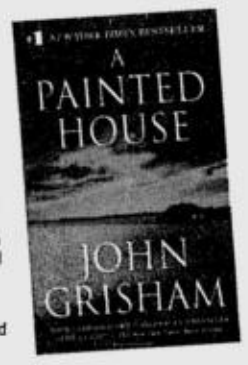
The Store Co.
- Mini mag lite (with two double AA batteries, comes in various colors), P729

Hahn
- A stolen Kiss jigsaw puzzle 1,500 pieces, P384.75
- "The Wheel of Time" series by Robert Jordan, P 319 each (paperback edition)

National Bookstore

"Harry Potter" books 1-4, hardbound edition, at P 649.00 each (could be for her too!)

One-year subscription to FHM, Forward and other local glossy magazines for guys



For her
- Incense (sandalwood) and incense holder P400

The Store Co.
- Traffic Jam cosmetic disc palettes, P225

Marks and Spencer
- Bloom Lip Gloss, P375

Beauty Bar
- After 8: 30 Massage Bar, P245

Lush
- Black Osaka canvass bag, P499
- Beaded bag (hand woven wooden beads), P399

The Store Co.
- Tiffany design silver bracelet, P650

Silverworks
- Red Cowl neck lycra dress with diamond stud design, P895
- A line skirt with retro diagonal design in black and beige, P745

Freeway
- Chocolate brown bowling bag, P699
- White linen long sleeves, P945
- Corduroy shirt dress with sports collar, P999

Bayo
- Bloom Lip Palette, 8 shades, P825

Beauty Bar
- "The Supernatural" cheek and lip tint with lip lacquer, P950

Philosophy, Beauty Bar
- Stretch V-neck cardigan, P698
- Garrison hipster belt, P698
- Black leather belt with silver buckle, 998

U2
- Recycled paper scrap book with angel design, P495

Tickles
- Tan turtle-neck knitted blouse, P695

Tango
- White turtle neck lycra long sleeves, P749

Mango
- Stories for The Extreme Teen's Heart, 479.50

National Bookstore
- Bloom Facial Body Mist, P250

Beauty Bar
- One year subscription to Metro, Cosmo, Chalk, Preview, Seventeen, Candymag, Meg and other local glossy magazines for gals

BUDGET: P 1,000- P3,000

For him:
- Retexturized parker shirt white short sleeves P2,995

Banana Republic, Instyle
- Black Messenger Bag P1,775

Instyle
- Bowling Shoes (in various colors), P2,890

The Shoe Salon
- Nylon jacket with hood P1,799
- Reversible nylon windbreaker P1,099 (could be for her too!)
- Olive Green Sports wrist watch P2,125

Giordano
- Nike Carry Gear sturdy light backpack, P1,995

Nike Park
- Soul Mates spray cologne P1,750

Philosophy, Beauty Bar
- Plaid short sleeves shirt P1,898

Esprit
- Military double-pocket long sleeves cotton shirt, P 2,225

Banana Republic, Instyle

- Swatch Skin Watch, P3,200

Gift Gate
- Men's Baseball long sleeves shirt P2,150

Marks and Spencer
- "For My Dreams" perfume for men P1,295

Esprit
- Black nylon dinner jacket P1,898

U2
- "Pinoy Pop Culture" by Glide Cordero and MG Chavez, P1,600

Bench
- Panasonic Cordless Phone (KX-TC 1005) P2,200

Electroworld

For her:
- Light-weight denim bootleg P 1,499

Giordano
- Argentus Heart shaped pendant with arrow pendant P 1,000 (with chain, P1,300) (silver and resin)

Moisanite
- Clinique Happy Set (Body Smoother Perfume and Roll On), P2,500

Beauty Bar
- Laura Mercier "The Night Palette" (eye shadow, blush on and powder set), P2,250

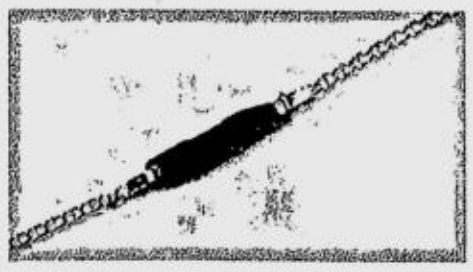
Essences
- Olive green military shirt dress with garrison belt, P2,595

Mango
- Beige V-neck knitted sweater (with navy blue and maroon stripes in the collar), P1,499

Mango
- Maroon slip dress with floral embroidery P2,940

Urban and Co.
- Jaqua Girls Goddess Gathering Kit P1,500

Beauty Bar
- Origins Set of Cheeks and Lip Make Up
- (Pinch Your Cheeks Liquid Blush, P600, Bite Your Lips Lip Gloss, P720 and Color Liquid, P 660), P1,980



Rustan's

BUDGET: P3,000-P5,000

For him:
- Philips Walkman (ACT 6688) P3,200
- Panasonic Discman (SL-SX) P4,799
- Sony CD Walkman (D-E221) P4,999
- Sony Walkman (FX 493) P3,499

Abenson

- Ericsson A3618 mobile phone Globe Prepaid Kit P4,990

The Hub

For her:
- Unisa 3-inch ankle boots P 3,300

CMG
- Long black slip dress P3,999

Mango
- Nars "Make Up Your Mind" Make up Set (eye shadow, lipstick and brush) P 4,450

Essences
- Swatch Skin Watch for Girls P3,200

Gift Gate
- Nokia 5110i mobile phone Globe Prepaid Kit P4,390

The Hub

BUDGET: P 5,000 above

For him:
- Nike Hyperflight, P5,995

Nike Place, Royal Sporting House
- Palm M105 P9,995

Electroworld
- Siemens M35i mobile phone (Globe Prepaid) P5,890
- Polo Ralph Lauren windbreaker jacket P7,450

Rustan's
- Kenneth Cole Penny Loafers P8,950

Rustan's, Kenneth Cole
- Bobbee Knapsack P11,500

Rustan's

For her:
- Maroon classic leather jacket, P7,499

Mango
- White Gold 14K bracelet P8,000

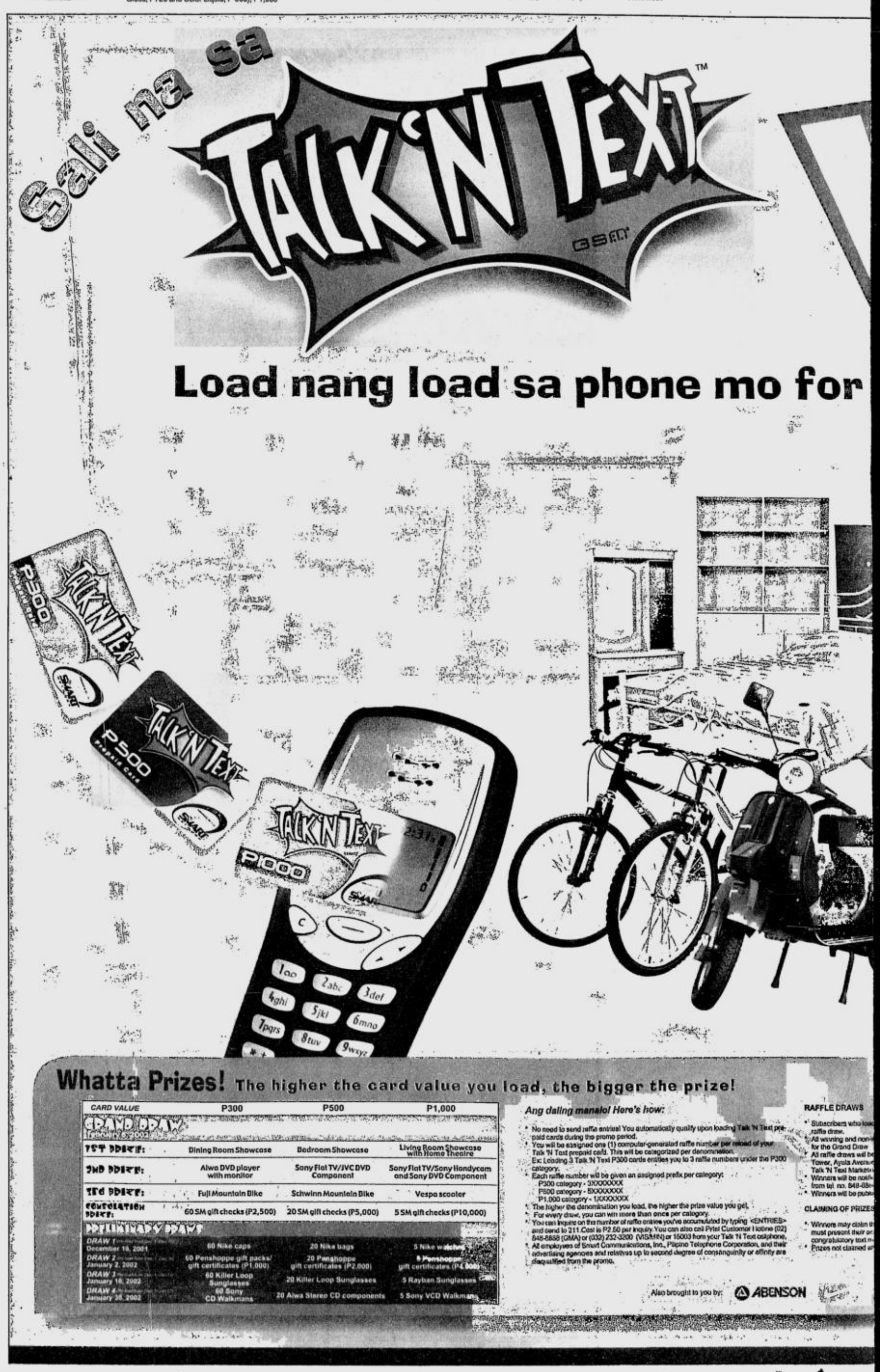
La Elegancia
- Tiffany chain bracelet P9,000

Tiffany and Co., Rustan's
- Nokia 3330, P9,490

The Hub
- Mercer soft Hobo (in red and black) P11,950

Coach, Rustan's
- Ninewest 3-inch calf boots ("Magali"), P6,650

Ninewest



Take that much-deserved holiday break

SUBIC HOLIDAY Spree

In Funtastic Subic. Now at gift-giving rates!

US$65+
Superior Room at Legenda Hotel
One-Bedroom Unit at Legenda Suites

US85+
Two-Bedroom Unit at Legenda Suites

US75+
Deluxe Room at Legenda Hotel

Free! Daily Breakfast for two persons per unit per night for dine-in only

P500 Rebate on Food & Beverage charges for the first 2 consecutive nights stay only

Promo Period: December 12, 2001 to January 31, 2002
*for local residents only *not valid for conference groups * subject to 10% service charge
US$15 surcharge on the following dates: December 24, 25, 29, 30 & 31, 2001

LEGENDA HOTEL
Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Zambales, Philippines 2200
Tel (2) 732-9888, (47) 252-1888 Fax (2) 712-8575
Manila Sales Office Tel (2) 853-0325 / 28 / 30 Fax (2) 853-7342
http://www.subiclegend.com • E-mail: slrc@svisp.com
LEGENDA SUITES

Load N Win!

a chance to win big-time prizes!

Whatta you waiting for?
Mag-reload na ng Talk 'N Text cards!

Promo Period is from December 1, 2001 to January 27, 2002

KILLER LOOP penshoppe

Yan ang galing without overspending!

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 4002, series of 2001.

POWERED BY THE SMART NETWORK

CAPIZ tube flower vase, P117. From Mano Mano

WALL clock watch, P695. From Defect

Gifts to show friends they're valued

BY KRISTINE CHING
Contributor

I DON'T know about you, but aren't you sick of those Forever Friends stuff? A pledge of eternal loyalty should not be made through trinkets. Besides, it's too commercialized. Give your friends something meaningful. Whether you want a meaningful or unique gift or simply want your friends to be grateful, this list is likely to achieve any one of those objectives.

P1,000 and up

For women, bags from *tiangge* or bazaars. A woman can never have too many shoes and bags. Bazaars usually carry great designs and they're not just designer knock-offs. For men, shades with shiny orangey-gold lens.

I don't know if they have outgrown their X-men fantasies or dreams of playing in the American National Basketball Association player. Swatch watches have very unique designs. Other possibilities are Casio's Pela film watches.

ASYMMETRICAL shoulder bag made of *abaca*, P295. From RDS

P500-P999

Watches! Both guys and gals would love them. Defect and 1:15 in Glorietta have great collections of watches. You can also find designer knock-off bags, watches or clothes (it's the style we're after, isn't it?) in, where else, Greenhills! Something that your friends will also be thankful for: prepaid cell phone cards. They won't have an excuse not to text you. Connectable picture frames from U are great gifts for anyone. Or you can get the name shirts like the one in Fish. These are shirts with words "goddess," "sexy," etc. printed on them.

P200-P499

Get small handbags for girls from *tiangge* and add little *kikay* stuff in them like lip gloss, eye shadow, etc. Those cell phone-shaped makeup kits from U and People are People might also be welcome. For guys, CDs of their favorite artists, organizers (not leather ones), cheapest prepaid cards for cell phone or Internet, lighters for smokers (Lighters Galore has unusual designs), name necklace from People are People or Fish. Guy's necklaces are also available at People Are People. Fashionable belts would be good, too, especially for your *gimikera* friends.

FLAT bag made of sack material, P300. From RDS

P100-P199

Make personalized gifts like a mug-full or glass-full of goodies. Fill a glass with your friend's favorite goodies then write a message on the glass/mug using craft paints. You can also use diskettes as gift tags. Small room décor like picture frames and little things to hang on the wall might also be welcome.

FACE mugs, P99.50 each. From RDS

ROUND, scented candles in tin can: small, P29.50; medium, P39.50; big, P49.50. From RDS

PRINTED purple bag with black leather straps, P650, by C2M2. For orders, call Chrissy at (0917) 522-0712.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

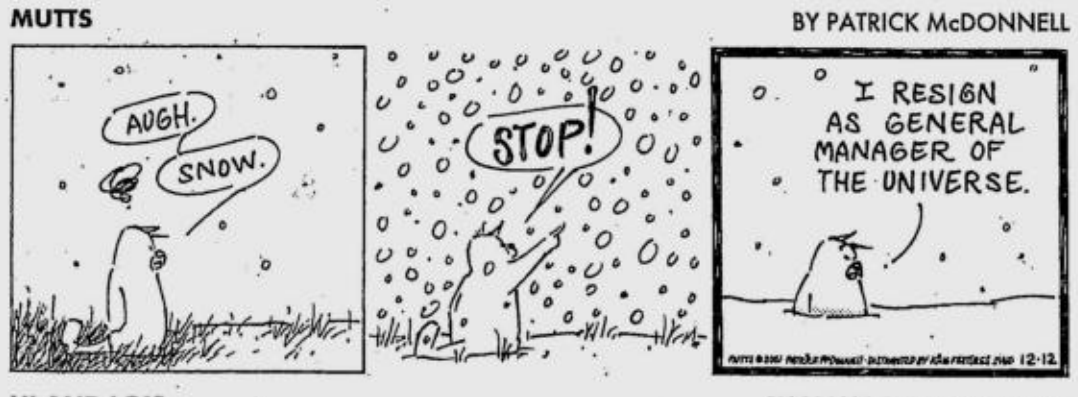
BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mayim Bialik, Cathy Rigby, Frank Sinatra, Dionne Warwick, Connie Francis

Happy Birthday: Don't be fooled into thinking that you are invincible. You will need help if you want to do all the things you've got scheduled in this year. Your options may be plentiful but being selective will be important if you truly want to achieve success. The year ahead will be exciting if you make the right choices, however, if you try to take on too much you will be disappointed with how little you actually achieve. Your numbers are 3,5,17,26,33,48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Travel will initiate new friendships or love connections. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions at a group meeting, however, keep your thoughts to yourself at home. Someone close to you will be moody.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let anyone put demands on your time. Unrealistic promises will only get you in trouble. Don't make large purchases or investments today unless you have done your research well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can form new partnerships today if you get out to functions that you find interesting, but don't move too quickly, things may not be as they appear. Get to know this individual better

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is not the day to take risks or to get involved with someone you work with. A colleague may cause problems for you if you are sneaking around. Don't let anyone know about your private affairs

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It may be the festive season but that doesn't mean you should spend every penny you earn. Take a look at your financial situation and be sure to take care of any pressing debts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have trouble containing your emotions today. Focus on being intimate and loving with someone you care about and refuse to argue if he or she is in a bad mood.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may lose important connections if you don't make contact. It's time to catch up with old friends. You will be glad that you took the initiative and you are likely to be the recipient of valuable information if you are a good listener.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can make major gains in business if you set up private meetings. Work in conjunction with authority figures in order to get to the bottom of any pending issue and turn things around. Positive actions will bring positive results.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be afraid to go out on a limb and speak your mind. You can convince anyone of anything. Your diplomatic approach will enhance your reputation and bring you the support you need.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make headway today if you follow your gut feelings You probably have made an accurate assessment of the situation at work so don't be afraid to make suggestions to rectify any problems.

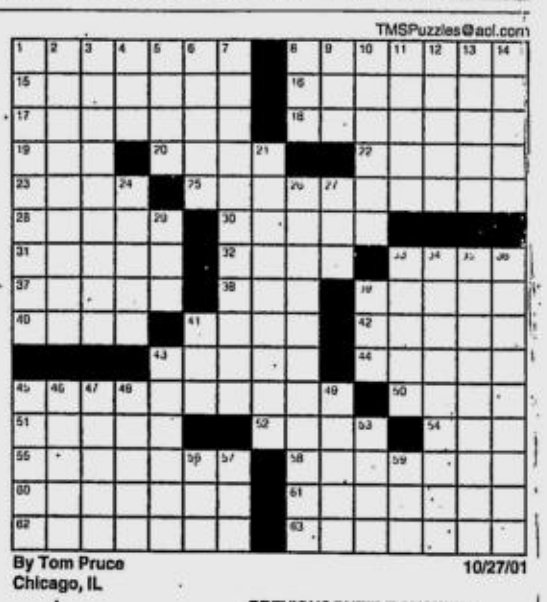
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get involved in groups that can offer intellectual stimulation. You can meet an interesting individual who makes your heart pound. Don't move too fast; be sure he or she isn't already committed to someone else.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may need help getting your house in order. Don't be afraid to ask someone with more experience. It will be worth your time and money. You can increase the value of your home if you make changes properly.

Birthday Baby: You are a take-charge sort of person. You have big dreams and lots of energy to help turn your desires into a reality throughout your life. Stay on course and you will reach your life goals.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 College in Salisbury, NC
8 Brand name on cakes
15 Synopses
16 Worshipful
17 Author of "War and Peace"
18 Tex-Mex choice
19 Pub offering
20 __ cuantos (a few)
22 Forklike
23 Ridicule
25 Extends
28 Capital of Guam, formerly
30 Classic Tierney film
31 Stairway piece
32 __-bitsy
33 Redolence
37 Tenochtitlan resident
38 Frontiersman Carson
39 In reserve
40 Highland loch
41 City near Phoenix
42 Irish poet
43 Papa Doc's domain
44 Island west of Maui
45 Occuring without outside influence
50 Stool supports
51 Sing like Bing
52 Reiner or Sagan
54 Straw drawn
55 Recitative, opera passages
58 Olympic skater Brian
60 Melodic ornament
61 In layers
62 Graceland man
63 Paint choices

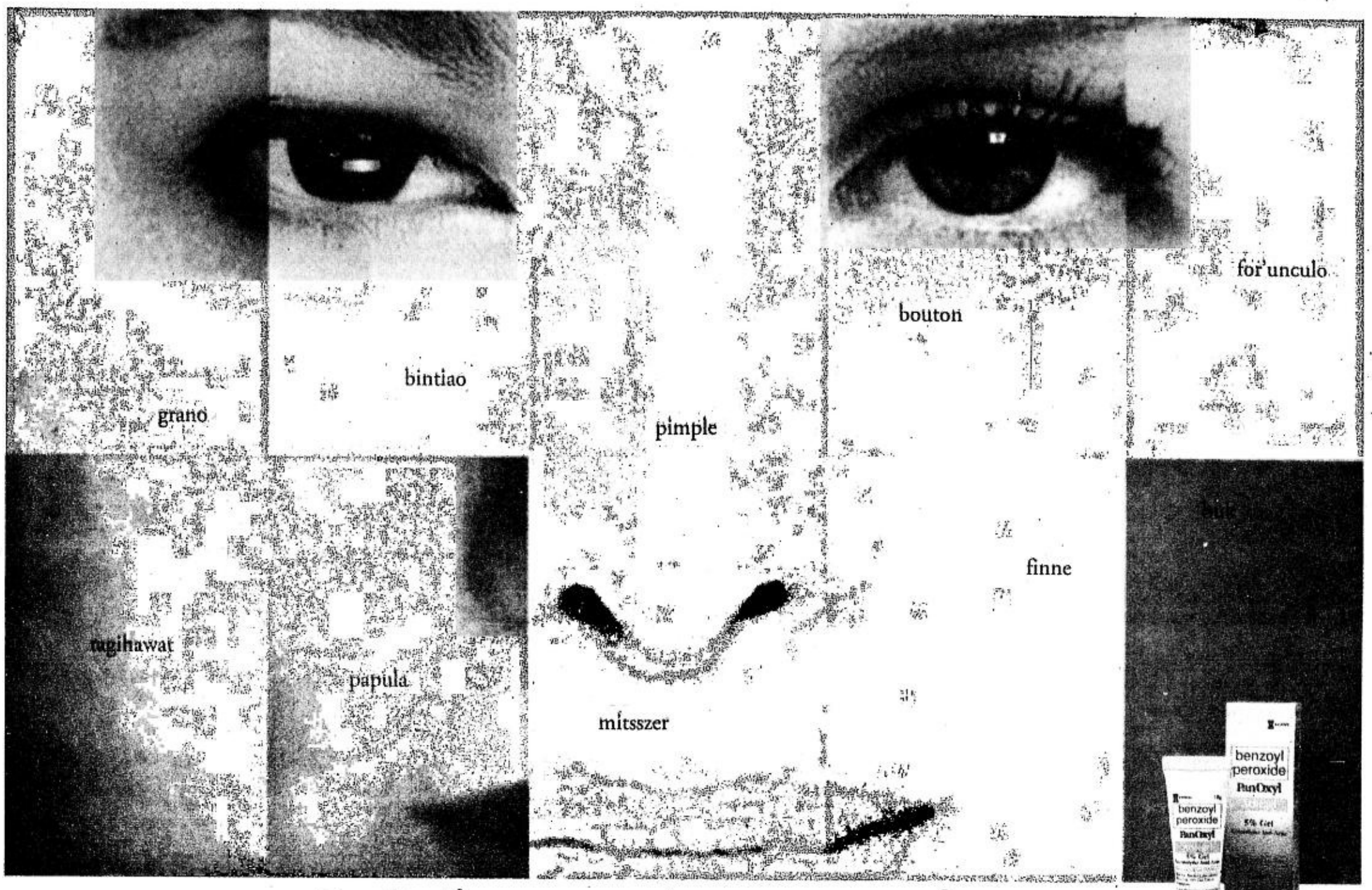
DOWN
1 Boat with two hulls
2 Make a formal defense
3 TV transmissions
4 __ longa, vita brevis
5 Prohibition grp.
6 Victor of "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?"
7 Play first performed in 1599
8 Was left idle
9 Excitement
10 Daises
11 Musician Shaw
12 Jungle vine
13 Brought to closure
14 Zounds!
21 Numerical datum
24 Housemaid's joints
26 Maintainable
27 Use too much nose?
29 Bowlike object
33 Shaquille of the NBA
34 "Wild Bill" co-star
35 Like stop signs
36 Current controllers
39 Popeye's Olive
41 Brit's raincoat
43 Gretel's brother
45 Scalawag
46 Bonehead play
47 Roanne's river
48 Comestibles
49 React to a bad pun
53 Peru's capital
56 Undivided
57 Porky's pen
59 Director Burton

By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
10/27/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	L	U	E		R	O	W		T	H	E	M	E	D
R	I	P	E		E	R	A		H	O	R	A	C	E
I	V	P	O	S	T	E	R		E	R	E	B	U	S
C	R	E	C	H	E		S	W	O	R	N			
E	E	R		A	L	B			R	O	O	K	I	E
			I	V	L	E	T	T	E	R	W	O	R	D
A	G	A	V	E		S	H	A	M			J	A	G
T	U	X	E	S		S	I	T		A	B	A	T	E
T	A	I			D	I	E	T		P	O	K	E	D
I	V	O	N	T	H	E	F	L	O	O	R			
C	A	M	E	R	A			E	N	D		U	S	A
			L	O	R	A	N		W	A	S	T	E	S
P	O	S	S	U	M		O	N	A	L	L	I	V	S
E	U	R	O	P	A		E	A	R		A	L	E	E
A	T	O	N	E	S		L	E	D		T	E	N	T

(C)2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved.
10/27/01



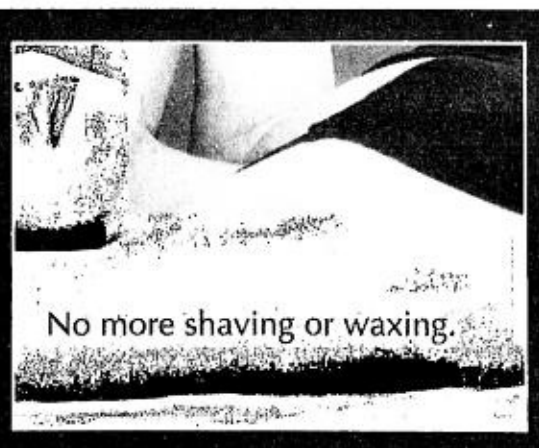
PanOxyl. The proven pimple treatment on the face of the planet.

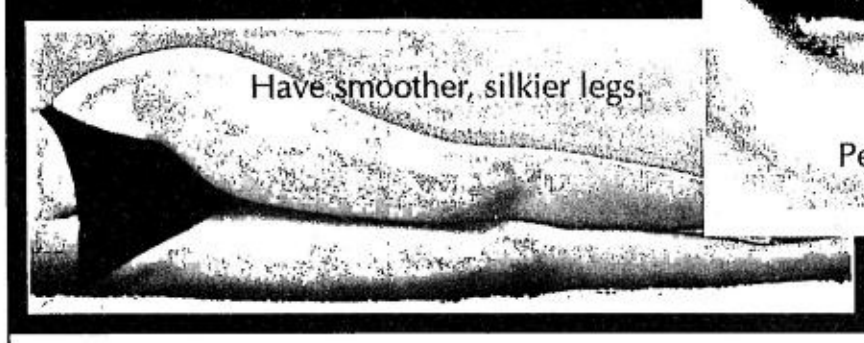
STIEFEL

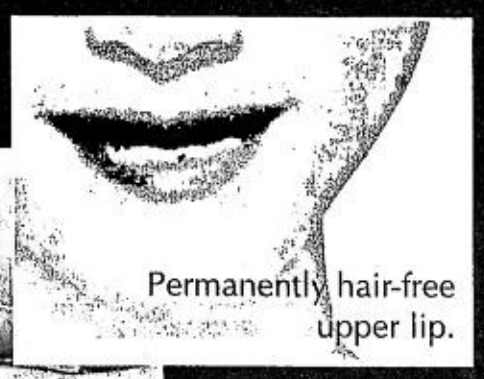
PanOxyl is a product of Stiefel. A multinational company with over 150 years of experience and dedication to research in dermatology. For product inquiries, call our ACTION-AID HOTLINE at 1-800-10-STIEFEL (provincial), and 635-7346 (Metro Manila), Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-11:30 a.m. You can also e-mail us at barcilla@stiefel.com or sjavier@stiefel.com. Available at all Mercury drug stores and other leading drugstores nationwide.

© 2001 Stiefel Philippines, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Remove Unwanted Hair Permanently at 25% OFF!







Be Hair-Free in time for the Holidays.

Get **25% DISCOUNT** upon enrollment in any LaserLight Hair Removal programme this yuletide season! Now the only FDA-approved treatment for permanent hair reduction is truly affordable. So there's no reason why you can't squeeze it in your Christmas budget. What better gift can you give yourself than satin-smooth skin that's permanently hair-free? Hurry! **Promo is on from December 7 - 16, 2001 only!**

LaserLight is suitable for any unwanted hair anywhere on your body. Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

NOW OPEN

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
817-3323	687-2196	372-6633	534-7701/02	842-1144	243-8138/39	920-7938	961-3404/08	233-7631
812-6080/81	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583	243-8602	920-7992	860-2663/64	233-7633/35
	631-3007 • 631-3045	410-3709 • 410-3710		850-4577	243-9895	920-8064		

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

Per DTI-NCR Permit #4038, Series of 2001

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)

Really bossy gifts

BY ANNE LUISA VILLARICO
2bU! Correspondent

The best gift to your boss this Christmas? Don't ask for a raise

BUDGET: P100

Office accents

Packs of Eagle stick-it-on notes, which come in varying sizes, will be useful in reminding your boss of pending deadlines or last-minute revisions. Also useful are paperweights, Parker pens, mouse pad and even white board marker set.

Homemade goodies

Now is the time to practice your culinary skills. Homemade goodies such as *maja blanca*, cookies, coco jam and *leche flan* are gifts your boss will really appreciate. It's a plus if you know to cook or bake certain specialties from your province.

ATHLETIC cap by Penshoppe

Miscellaneous

A Christmas card will not be amiss; a handwritten note straight from the heart will make your boss feel important.

Other suggestions: Scented candles, stress balls, "Our Daily Bread" booklet.

Jeepney pad penholder from Papemelroti, gym towels (available at Bench, Human and Penshoppe) and athletic baseball caps.

P200

Beddings—pillow case, throw pillow;
Electronic gift certificate from Ayala Malls;
Shot glass;
Champagne stopper.

P500

Kitchen essentials

You'll never go wrong with this unless, whether your boss prefers to eat out. These are handy small kitchen appliances such as food scale, electronic bottle or can opener, nutcracker and ice bucket.

Native crafts

Especially if your boss is a foreigner, you may try native stuff like a lamp or clock made from *capiz* shells, rocking chair, placemats and serving tray.

Others: Gardening tools like gloves and watering pail, desktop organizers, flowers (fresh, please), theater tickets, business card case, MAC lipstick, holiday coffee-break essentials from Starbucks (perfect for caffeine-loving boss), and Angel Touch gift set from Papemelroti.

P1,000 and up

Marks and Spencer polo shirt
Rolfs wallet
Fino leatherwear
Hugo Boss necktie
Bubbly Pram wine package
Stylish trash bin from Rustan's
Lima passport case with insert
Body Shop gift set
Scents from L' Occitane
Beauty Bar (spa pack, foot pampering pack)
Spa gift check
One-year subscription to Time Magazine, Entrepreneur
Salon gift certificates
Clinique or Estee Lauder gift packs
HoMedics—Fitness Pro Extendible Rechargeable Massager (RM-200)
Work-related hardbound books: "Who Moved My Cheese?," "The One- Minute Manager" and other books your boss would like to read before going to sleep.

BUBBLY Pram gift set

P5,000 and up

3Com Palm m100 (in case your boss is not yet tech-savvy)
Philippe Charriol jewelry (Rockwell)
Louis Vuitton mini monogram canvas urban handbags (available at 6750 Ayala Avenue).

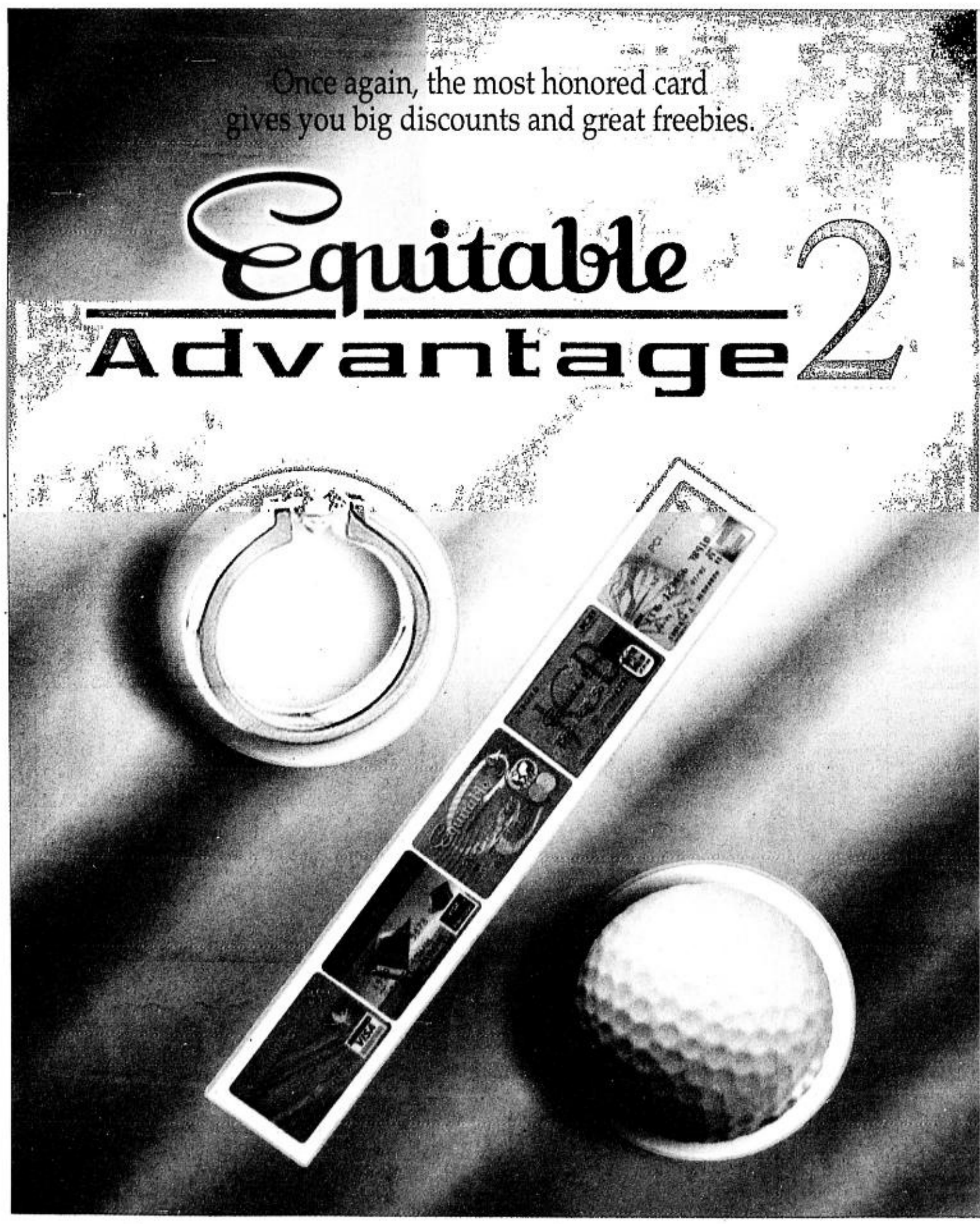
The Sun shines in Boracay!

3 days/ 2 nights in paradise for only P6,400/person

- Roundtrip airfare
- Standard room/ double occupancy
- Breakfasts
- Land & boat transfer
- Welcome drink

Sun Village Boracay Resort

Tel. 8131338 8939355 8163109 Fax 8124797
fpnl@pacific.net.ph / fuentes@pacific.net.ph.



Here's another great reason to use your Equitable Card! From now until December 31, 2001, you can get discounts and exciting freebies at various establishments nationwide just by using your Equitable Card. Enjoy the Equitable Advantage 2 now!

Use your Equitable Card from December 1 to 24 and earn DOUBLE E-POINTS in the Equitable Advantage Plus Rewards Promo.

Participating establishments:

ABENSON, BLIMS fine furniture, BLUED, CROSSINGS, DIVI, GNC Live Well, Healthy Options, MUSIC & SPORTS, KRISTINE, MODA PRONTO GROUP, MOISSANITE, Oceanic, THE OPTICAL SHOP, INC., PERK, RITRATTO, TOBY'S, Emilio's

Equitable CARD

Everyone should have 1.

Equitable Card Center
203 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City 1229, Philippines

For more information, please call:
(632) 867-7977 (Metro Manila)
1-800-1-888-3264 (Domestic Toll Free)
website: www.equitablecard.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4700 Series of 2001

For feedback or suggestions is_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

2bU • to be you • to be young • to be you! • To be you!

KELVIN TO JAZZ: *"Pare, hindi 'yan ang award..."*

And the winners are . . .

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

NOT rain, traffic or pesky scalpers could stop happy rockers from flocking to Le Pavilion in Pasay City on Dec. 5. And why should they allow themselves to be stopped? It was the NU 107 Rock Awards Night.

Already on its 8th year, this year's awards, hosted by UNTV's Tado and Erning (of the show "Strange Brew"), were by far the best one yet. Everyone was happy with the winners—fans *and* bands alike.

The Itchyworms! bagged the Best New Artist award, much to their surprise (the guitarists were still on the road when their name was announced), and Twisted Halo finally got recognition by winning the much-coveted "In the Raw" award. Imago, although missing out on Best New Artist and Album of the Year, scooped up two awards—Aia de Leon for Vocalist of the Year and Zach Lucero for Drummer of the Year.

Slapshock, after being robbed of last year's Artist of the Year award, finally got its due by winning both Artist of the Year and the Band of the Year. Manuel Legarda bagged Guitarist of the Year for the second time.

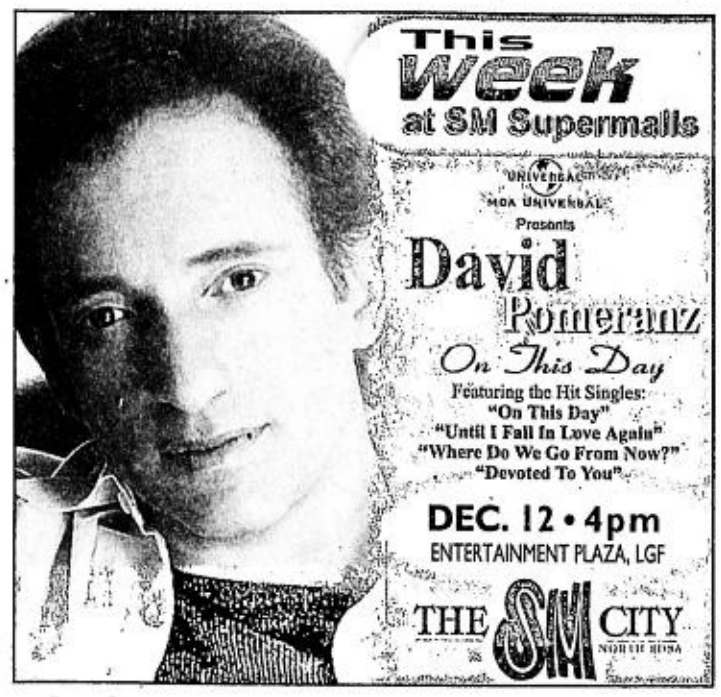
The performances were no disappointment, either. Wolfgang opened the show with their single, "No Falter." The moshpit finally gave in when Chico Science went on stage—bouncers were nowhere to be found as kids started getting up on the 6-ft stage to mosh with the band. Imago proved why their vocalist deserved to win; De Leon gave a heartbreaking rendition of "Rain Song." Sandwich rocked the crowd, Bad Burn blew the audience away, and Slapshock came back for an encore.

And where did the happy rockers flock to after the show? Wherelse, for the after-party. But then that's a different story...

AND/ p.E2

"ANO, kaya ninyo 'yon?!" Best Vocalist Aia de Leon

CYNTHIA Alexander wins Song of the Year.



Everyone is invited to join us as we observe this uniquely Filipino and time-honored tradition...

SIMBANG GABI

at SM MEGAMALL

Every 7:30pm, from December 15 to 23, 2001 at the 5th Floor, Bridgeway, Megamall Bldg. B

celebrating priests:

Dec. 15 - Msgr. Mylo Hubert C. Vergara
Dec. 16 - Rev. Fr. Dominador G. Guzman Jr., SSP
Dec. 17 - Rev. Fr. Joseph Faller
Dec. 18 - Rev. Fr. Genaro O. Diwa
Dec. 19 - Most Rev. Fr. Jesse E. Mercado, DD
Dec. 20 - Most Rev. Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr., DD
Dec. 21 - Rev. Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, SSP
Dec. 22 - Msgr. Roberto C. Canlas
Dec. 23 - Rev. Fr. Peterson O. Tieng, LRMS

IT pays to win the Artist of the Year Award. Atom Henares, Angela Velez and Jamir Garcia

FRANCIS Reyes. "All those over 5'4", step this way..."

"WHAT, I don't get the chicks?" Howlin' Dave gets the Hall of Fame Award.

RAYYN, with the Best Album Packaging. We bet he's got lots of stationary on him, too.

And the winners are . . .

(From page E1)

The winners:

Best Album Packaging: "Rayyn" by Rayyn, designed by Three Fates Inc.

Best Rock Video: "Money for Food" by Barbie's Cradle, directed by Monty Parungao

Producer of Year: Louie Talan, for his work on the album "Acoustica" by Wolfgang

Bassist of the Year: Lee Nadela, Slapshock

Drummer of the Year: Zach Lucero, Imago

Guitarist of the Year: Manuel Legarda, Wolfgang

Vocalist of the Year: Aia de Leon, Imago

Hall of Fame: Dante "Howlin' Dave" David

In the Raw Award: Twisted Halo

Listener's Choice: Slapshock

Best New Artist: Itchyworms!

Album of the Year: "Four Track Mind," Sandwich

Song of the Year: "Motorbykle," Cynthia Alexander

Artist of the Year: Slapshock

S to the A-N-D, Double-U-I-C-H. Sandwich pala eeh...

***"MANONG**, ang sarap ng mic, no?"* Part 3. Jett Pangan of The Dawn

WANTED: Ely Buendia of the Eraserheads

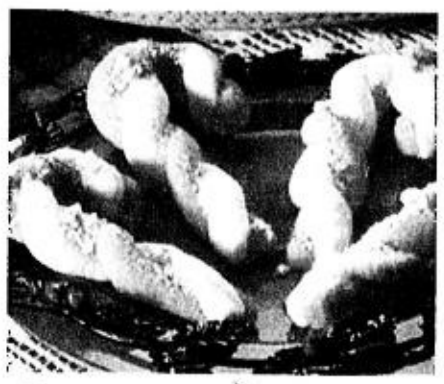
***"MANONG**, ang sarap ng mic, no?"* Part 2. Michael Turner of Battery

***GALIT SI* MARBEN.** *Hindi daw nanalo* Brown Beat All-Stars, *eh.*

***"MANONG**, ang sarap ng mic, no?"* Part 1. Miguel Chavez of Chico Science

One text

gets



Recipes to make Christmas merrier

BY ZEE CASTRO
2bU! Correspondent, UP Diliman

CHRISTMAS is the season of celebration, merriment and gift-giving.

Get into the spirit of Christmas by heating up your ovens, filling your house with sweet aromas, warming the hearts and filling the bellies of your loved ones with these treats.

You might want to do something different this Christmas by trying the eggnog, customary drink in Europe and America during the holiday season. You might end up liking it and start a new holiday tradition for your family.

Rich Eggnog

6 large eggs
¾ c sugar
1½ c brandy
½ c rum
4 c milk
4 c cream
½ c confectioner's sugar
Nutmeg

Separate the egg yolks from the whites. Beat the yolks slowly while simultaneously adding the sugar. Do this until the mixture is pale and golden. Slowly add the brandy and rum, then beat in the milk and half of the cream. Set aside until just before serving. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and fold them into the eggnog mixture. Whip the remaining cream and icing sugar until thick. Top each glass of eggnog with whipped cream and a shake of nutmeg. Makes eight servings.

Christmas Fudge

5 oz evaporated milk
1½ c sugar
1½ c marshmallow cream
¼ c butter
½ tsp salt
12 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 tsp vanilla
½ c chopped nuts

Butter an 8-inch square pan. Combine milk, sugar, marshmallow cream, butter and salt in a saucepan. Stir and bring to a boil over moderate heat. Continue to stir and cook for five minutes. Remove from heat. Immediately add chocolate chips and vanilla, and stir until mixture is shiny. Add nuts and pour quickly into the pan. Chill. Cut into squares.

Rudolph's Cookie Kisses

1 c softened margarine
1 tsp vanilla
2/3 c sugar
1 2/3 c flour
¼ c cocoa
1 bag (9 oz) Hershey's chocolate kisses

Beat margarine, sugar and vanilla until creamy. In a separate bowl, stir together flour and cocoa. Blend well into the other mixture. Refrigerate for about 1 hour or until dough is easy to handle. Mold scant tablespoon dough around each kiss, covering completely. Shape into balls, then bake on cookie sheet for 10 to 12 minutes or until set. Cool, then roll in powdered sugar. Makes 4½ dozen.

Biscotti

2½ c all-purpose flour
¾ c cornmeal
2 tsps baking powder
¼ tsp salt
½ c butter, softened
1 c sugar
2 large eggs
1 tbsp aniseed
¾ c coarsely chopped almonds
½ c finely chopped almonds
3 tbsps water

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour the cookie sheet. Combine flour, cornmeal, baking powder and salt in bowl. Beat butter and sugar in mixer bowl until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs. Gradually add dry ingredients until blended. Then add aniseed, almonds and water. Divide dough in half. Place on cookie sheet. Shape each half into 14-inch rope. Flatten slightly to ¾-inch thick. Bake 25-30 minutes or until golden brown. Carefully transfer strips to cutting surface. With serrated knife, cut into ½-inch slices. Place on clean cookie sheet then return to oven. Turn off the oven and let cookies dry for one hour. Cool on cookie sheet.

A cynic finally believes in romance

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Caloy and Sep,

I am in love. This person I'm with is wonderful. We complement each other in the most surprising ways. You might even say that we're perfect for each other, and for a cynic like me to be saying this about a relationship is certainly something. You just have to take my word for it and trust that I'm not some stupid child infatuated with the idea of romance.

Sometimes, though, he is such a romantic in every hopeless storybook sense of the word that I feel insufficient and cynical, unable to make him happy. Don't get me wrong, he keeps in close touch with reality, responsible and smart. He is so sweet and understanding. I love him for his drama, which is part of the passion by which he lives each day.

Do you believe in romance? What will you do if you were in my shoes? Am I being presumptuous about my influence over his being romantic?

CARMEN C.

I don't see a problem in your relationship. If there is one, it is that you worry too much about how you look (and I don't mean physical appearance here) and how people would probably think of you as the un-fun one in the couple. Well, that is not something that should bother you too much that it would push you into doing anything drastic. You obviously complement him with your no-nonsense approach to love and he doesn't seem to mind that you think differently from him. That seems to be the case, so why fix something that isn't broken?

In answer to your question, sure, I believe in romance. It's a fun, fun experience and it is a chance for anybody to be, for once, a little selfless. You, for example, are quite sweet to think of how your usual attitude to relationships affects him. If anything, the greatest thing that could happen to anybody who loves is to evaluate himself or herself and to want to be a better person for his or her loved one. Acceptance of each other is good but being single and being in a couple are two completely different scenarios. Didn't you feel that, upon entering the relationship you have with your boyfriend, you surrendered a part of yourself, maybe a bit of your usual cynicism? You said it yourself that romance has made everything look brighter but it hasn't completely swept you off your feet into irrationality—to me, that is the perfect balance. If I were in your place, I would appreciate the current state of the relationship. Your worrying is a good thing, but you mustn't let it take hold of you so you can enjoy your love life.

SEP

Your letter seems to be from someone very sure of the beliefs she has, one who decides for herself the course in her life and, the nature of that course, precisely.

You have decided upon certain factors and that, I assure you, is splendid for you. Your decisions are honorable.

Why are they honorable? It is because I see the power of idealism in you that screams individuality. I see the intensity in your grasp of things. Life in almost its purest form, I once again assure you: to me, this is highly respectable, as I, too, have my convictions, to which I hold, not so much dearly, as they are simply, such. I have also repealed some convictions not suited for a fast-changing lifestyle. If I have neither retained nor absconded such convictions, then in the very least, I enlightened myself in reassessment.

Take your sweet time, and test his patience tempering it with your care and affection. If you wish to run with the wolf in him, then do so, no doubt questioning motives. You must know when to question motives, as well as when to forget it, feeling, enjoying, savoring... purely, without forcing it, without faking it.

You must be smart, you must be quick. But as these apply to everything that we do in our lives in an ultimately competitive society, when it comes to successful relationships, there is none to be but yourself.

The only change I would favor would be in increasing the goodness that you can work in the world. Should your main squeeze cause you to create change in a relatively positive way, then your benevolent beautiful existence will take on its own glory.

Without indifference or intolerance, much truths—hard as they are to accept—are destined to come out, naturally, like a thorn being rejected by a unicorn's flesh. And this is where the power of the True Life Force, which will remain unnamed, sees no more fear and unabashedly shines. Meaning, if you've made it clear to him—your stand on your values—and if he's still with you, never ceasing to be dramatic, daring you each and every day to marry him finally, then maybe he's enjoying your game of cat and mouse. Apparently, you're a good enough companion, and apparently, he's willing to cooperate.

But be yourself and, the only mushy thing I can say is: He has to love you for who you are. If it doesn't work out, then the only thing you can possibly feel in the negative is being insulted.

But if he, all of a sudden, dumps you because he hears his biological clock ticking, then I hope you've had your fun... your way.

CALOY

myGlobe Text Group

Invite your friends to a post-work get together this holiday season. Keep everyone in the loop and reach them instantly with myGlobe Text Group! You can text as many as 24 people and do away with the hassle of having to text them separately! The great thing is, you pay only for the message you send. Each member in your text group pays only ₱1.00 to receive the message – a small price to pay to get that all-important text.

Create your Text Group now! Here's how:
Log-on to www.myglobe.com.ph. Click the **myServices** link and enroll in myGlobe Text Group. Reserve a keyword, then click on the "convert to TextGroup" link. You can then enter the Handyphone numbers of your Text Group members.

QUESTIONS ABOUT TEXT GROUP?
Just call the special Text Group Hotline at 739-0078 up to 87 from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15, 2001, Mon-Sat, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (call the Globe hotline at 730-1000 outside these hours). We'll be more than happy to assist you.

myGlobe
mobile e-services
NO LIMITS

Alternative ways to celebrate Yuletide

BY GILES IVAN A. AQUINO
Don Bosco Mandaluyong

It doesn't take a genius to find out ways to celebrate Christmas with a difference. Just do things with love

CHRISTMAS equals party. We party with friends, coworkers, relatives, classmates, correspondents, etc. The economic crunch only drives us to celebrate more. But how do you like your Christmas to be celebrated? Here are some alternative ways to make your Christmas an affair to remember.

Party with kids

If you have a little brother or sister, why not plan the party for him/her class. You can get in touch with the parents and ask their help for the party. You can make many cute and delicious Christmas cookies together with them. During the party you can have the kids play a game with their parents. The games would strengthen the kids' bond with their parents and with you!

Special Christmas

It's important to ensure that children with disabilities feel a part of the celebration and not be excluded. It would be great if you could make a production like a play or a musical and make them handle it. Assign someone to hold the cue cards, another to be the sound engineer, and still another to be the emcee. Ask everyone to participate in a special number.

Tree light dinner

After your Christmas shopping spree, share a meal with your friends around the Christmas tree. Turn off all the lights in the house and leave just the Christmas lights of your tree on. Prepare a simple meal, perhaps pizza. This will relieve you of the stress of the day. You'll have more time to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Christmas gift journal

You don't want to give the same gifts every year. You can keep track of the gifts you give every Christmas and even those you receive by making a portfolio of gifts. Ask your friends if they can still remember the gifts you gave them last year. Have them sketch or describe the gifts.

Christmas masquerade

Everybody loves to be a gift-giver this Christmas, and the perfect way is to dress up like the ultimate gift-giver himself—Santa Claus! Christmas is also the perfect time for fashionistas to express themselves and wear the most innovative, most creative and wildest Santa Claus outfit. Maybe Santa would want a fashion makeover, too!

Share a thought

Your closet may be bursting with clothes you don't want to use any more. Gather all those extra clothes and even toys. You can donate them to GMA's "Give a gift" and Jollibee's "Maaga ang Pasko" program. Or you may simply donate them to your parish church. You can be more generous by wrapping them. For a child, opening a gift is exciting.

Patch up

If you feel emptiness inside, maybe it's because you haven't spoken with a friend or with friends with whom you had quarreled. Swallow your pride. Give them a call and invite them over for a Christmas celebration. This can be a very rewarding act of humility.

On memory lane

Filipinos are innately fond of pictures. So it's time to take out those pictures taken from past Christmases from your photo album and decorate your home with them. You can make a very large collage and put it on the wall. Let your parents recount to your children their experiences with you during your childhood. Turn your Christmas party into a nostalgia party.

Write down your feelings

It's not every day that you can get an opportunity to thank the people you love. This is the time. Write down a note for your dear friends and families on special paper and place it as a tag to the gifts you are giving them. This will add value to the gifts.

Road trip

If you can't afford to take time to decorate your own home, then go to Ayala Avenue in Makati or Policarpio Street in Mandaluyong. Policarpio Street, with its Manila C.O.D.-themed displays and its array of Christmas lights, will make you feel like you're in a different world. This is where you'll really feel the spirit of Christmas. Take your family and friends there.

Christmas card factory

Artists or artists at heart can make artistic Christmas cards. A personalized greeting card is worth more than the assembly line product being sold in stores. You will definitely leave a lasting mark in the hearts of the recipients!

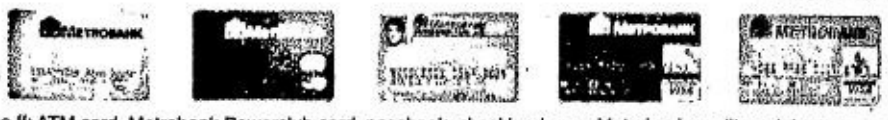
So I hope this will help you, guys. It really doesn't take a creative mind to think of alternative ways to celebrate Christmas. All you need is to do things with love. *Feliz Navidad!*

E-mail the author at giaquino@edsamail.com.ph

UP TO 75% DISCOUNT!
0% INTEREST ON INSTALLMENT FOR SELECTED APPLIANCES!
EVERYTHING PAYABLE IN INSTALLMENT AT ONLY 1.5% INTEREST PER MONTH!
THE METROBANK CREDIT CARDS CHRISTMAS BAZAAR STRIKES BACK!
THE METROBANK CREDIT CARDS Christmas SHOPPING CITY

- Open to the public!
- Free entrance for Metrobank Group clients, their families & friends!*
- Previous bazaar's invitations, shopping cards and receipts are valid as entrance passes!
- Shopping cards available for non-Metrobank credit cardholders!

le Pavillon
A fully air-conditioned tent at the Metropolitan Park, Roxas Blvd. cor. EDSA Ext.
December 15 & 16, 2001
10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.



COMPAQ

*Just present any of the ff: ATM card, Metrobank Powerclub card, passbook, checkbook, any Metrobank credit card, Insurance policy or Toyota car key.
For inquiries, please call our 24-hour, 7-day customer service hotlines: 8-700-700; 759-5901 or when outside Metro Manila, 1-800-1-888-5775 domestic toll-free or visit Unibancard Corp. at 15/F, PSBank Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Tindalo St., Makati City

PARTICIPATING BRANDS AND MERCHANTS:

617 BLUEBERRY • AC CORPORATION • ABENSON INC. • ACE APPAREL • AKC INT'L MARKETING INC. • AMBASSADOR APPLIANCE INC. • AMSPEC • ANN'S SUCCESS STUFFED TOYS • ANSON EMPORIUM INC. • ARAWAZ • ARISTON • ART HARVEST NOVELTY • AUTOMATIC CENTRE • BAJET CREATIONS INC. • BEADS AND PIECES • BELLIVAS ENTERPRISE • BENBY ENT., INC. • CARLO PALACHI • CHLOE WAYS MARKETING • CHUBBIES & CHOW • COLLINS INT'L • CRYSTALS • CSM INT'L CORP. • DCAM ENTERPRISES • D'SAVOURY FLAVOURS AND SPICES • D-ORAN ARTS & CRAFTS • DAEWOO • DAVE MARCON • DALISAY SWEETS • DIGIPOWER CORP. • DIVINE TRADING • ENNI FASHION TRADING • EWAS LINEN BY CASABELLA • EXECUTIVE OPTICAL • FORMOSTAR • FRED PERRY • FRIGIDAIRE • FUNTASTIC • GE • GLOBAL BRAND CO., INC. • GRACE PARK INCL • GUTSBY INT'L FASHION • HAHN MANILA • HANABISHI • HOBBY CO. COUNTRY CRAFT • HOUSE OF PHIL. CERAMICS • HUNGRY PAC • JVC • JEANSTATION • KING SUE-HAM AND SAUSAGE CO. • KOMKA • KOPPEL/FEDDERS • KOTTON PHILS. • KUDDLE CRAZE • L'CIADA • LE JORDAN APPAREL INC. • LEO AND WENG ENTERPRISE • LET'S TALK COMMUNICATION • LILI JEWELLERY • LIMOSY INT'L CELADON & PORCELAIN WARES • M&C FOOD SERVICES • MAC FASHION • MACJEN INT'L, INC. • MARA METAL CRAFT • MSH ENTERPRISE • MARI-CARS JEWELRY • MARY MIKE INC. • MATT-MATT GARMENTS • MAZINGERPIG • NATORI • NEW BENEHLYN ENT. • NEW CREATIONS MANUFACTURING INC. • NEW POLLAND BAKERS FAIR • NON-WOVEN FABRICS PHILS. INC. • NORTHPLAST CORP • ORANGE COMMUNICATION • PALM PDA • PAMBOOLUIT • PHIL. AXA LIFE • PHILIPS • PIONEER • PLAY AND DISPLAY • PROLINE • REPLAY • ROYAL SELANGOR • RUSTY LOPEZ • SANYO • SEARCH COMMERCIAL • SEASONFEST TRADING • SHARP • SIMPLY ASIA • SMARTY TOYS • SONY • SOUTH DYNASTY • SPRINGTIME CREATIONS • SUGUS SHOES • SUPER EAST ASIA ENT., INC. • TATUM & CO. • TEANO INT'L EXPORT CORP. • THE BED AND BATH CO. • TIN SQUARE COLLECTIONS • TRISTAR PLASTIC • UNICA-MZR INDUSTRIES • UNION • WB PACIFIC PUBLISHING • WALKER INTER-FASHIONS • WESTERN MARKETING CORP. • WHIRLPOOL • WIZZAR • WOK WITH SOU • AND MORE!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-0707, Series of 2001

Make money—not just merry—on Christmas

BY MARILESS V. VILLAMAR
2bU! Correspondent

AROUND this time of year, people get manic about shopping. A few months before Christmas, most of us already have a long list of people who will get even a little something from us. But there are people who generally leave Christmas shopping until the last minute.

Budding entrepreneurs should be glad that there are such people for they represent a great business opportunity. Here are some tips on how you can tap this prospective client base and earn back the money you spent on that expensive cashmere sweater for mom.

- Open a stall in a bazaar. You know the holiday season has started when your mom is busily making the rounds of bazaars all over Metro Manila. From affluent subdivisions to swanky hotels, bazaars are everywhere. If you think you've got a great product but never had the time to peddle it, then you might want to consider getting a small stall in a bazaar. Stall rates depend largely on the organizers, although location can be a factor.
- Baking. You've always wanted to share your culinary talents, but didn't know how. Now is the best time to do that and earn money in the process. Many people are too busy to get personalized gifts for everyone on their lists so Christmas often means buying in bulk. Thus, we receive the standard gifts of *hamon* and *queso de bola*. My Dad once ordered more than 20 rum cakes in varying sizes to give to his colleagues and business associates.

You can take advantage of this tendency although there are some important things to keep in mind. Make sure your kitchen is ready for such a Herculean task. Know how many orders you can take in a day and set parameters. It might be tempting to accept all orders that come your way, but you cannot sacrifice quality control. Let your friends know you're in the business. Word-of-mouth is the best kind of advertisement, but make sure you produce only the best.

- Decorations. It can be frustrating thinking of ways to have original Christmas décor. Bookstores and supermarkets are no help because they just rehash items from the past. You can take advantage of a discriminating consumer's dilemma by turning a hobby into an income-generating venture. Try to come up with eye-catching and innovative designs that are sorely lacking in commercial establishments out there. You can sell the goods in your house or bring them to a bazaar. You may also want to bring your stuff to stores on consignment.
- Christmas caroling. Among my best childhood memories of Christmas is making the rounds of our village to sing carols to the neighbors. This was a holiday tradition for my siblings and me, and I was extremely happy with the P5 the neighbors would generously give me, bragging about it all night to my parents. A bit older now (and wiser), I know that my singing voice alone will not fetch me even P5. But if you love to sing, you can round up some of your friends and form a choral group. Most people will be kind enough to give you some money, although that is not always the case. A few friends have told me that a standing ovation is the best that some can offer these days.
- Christmas giveaways. It's traditional for most companies to have giveaways for employees and business associates during the holidays. But since companies are looking at ways to cut costs, chances are they won't be buying a whole lot of stuff and might even be looking for suppliers who would offer cheaper merchandise.

That's where you come in. Make good use of your penchant for creating little knickknacks that now take up almost half of your room. Your mom might have considered them just "junk," but you know what they say: one man's trash is another man's treasure.

My own wish list, however, is unlikely to be filled by any entrepreneur. I wish Santa gives local politicians what they need most—a conscience. I wish senators would stop their childish bickering and remember they are supposed to be adults, if they have forgotten. I wish for the revitalization of the stock market. I wish for true leaders in government, make that I beg for true leaders. I wish that kids look to themselves for hope and inspiration, that they continue to believe that life is what you make of it.

I also wish for a tracking device for kidnappers so the police won't have to rely on faulty intelligence reports to track them down, and a brain and a conscience for the police.

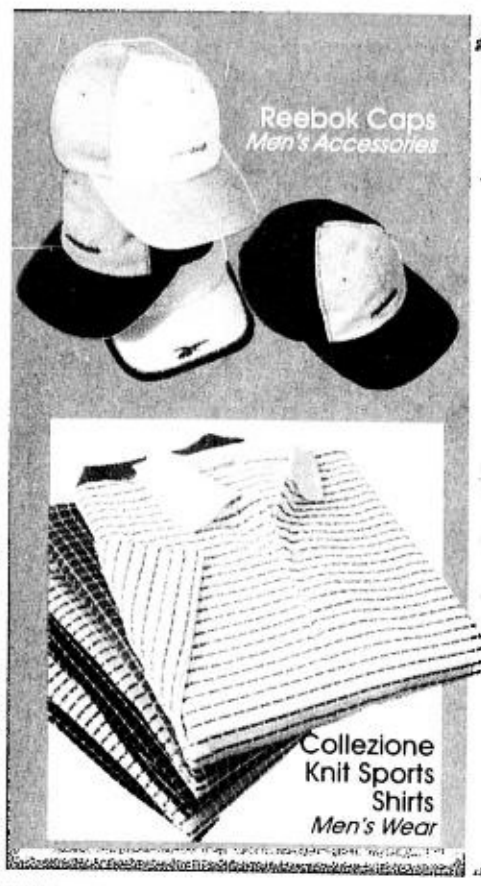
gift solutions
Christmas 2001

for Him
Polo and Cargo Pants Boys Teens' Wear
Executive Shirts Men's Wear
Alfred Dunhill Desire Eau de Toilette H&B
Acrylic CD Cases Men's Accessories
Checkered Golf Shirts Men's Wear
Striped Knit Sports Shirt Men's Wear
Fudge Hair Styling Line H&B
Holiday gifting solutions from the Men's and Boys' Teens Wear, Accessories and Shoes Departments, Stationery Center and Luggage Department and H&B
Two-tone Casual Shirts Boys Teens' Wear
Jarman Leather Slip-ons Men's Shoes
Echolac Computer Cases Luggage
Davidoff Cool Water Christmas Set H&B
Leaveland Leather Belts Men's Accessories
Diesel Shades Men's Accessories
Timex Watches Men's Accessories
Polo Sport Shades Men's Accessories
And 1 Athletic Men's Shoes
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
the perfect GIFT
SM Gift Card ₱500
In denominations of P2,000 P1,000 and P500
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO

gift solutions

Christmas 2001

Rayban Callaway Golf Shades
Men's Accessories



Reebok Caps
Men's Accessories

Collezione Knit Sports Shirts
Men's Wear

Long-sleeve Knit Shirts
Men's Wear

CD Carrying Cases *Men's Accessories*

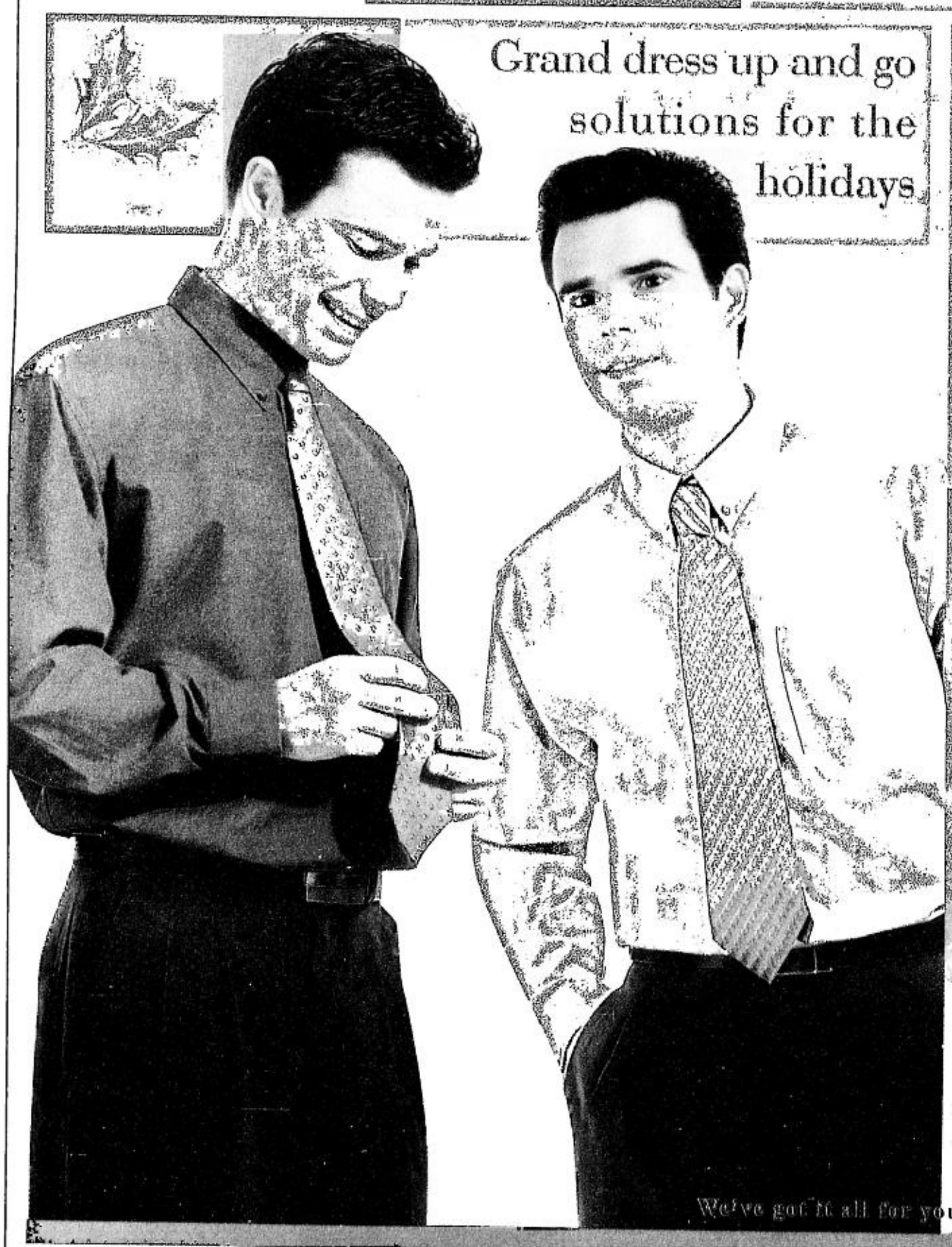
Rayban Fashion Shades
Men's Accessories

Braun Battery-operated Shavers
Men's Accessories

Nautica Spray Perfume *H&B*

Jean Paul Gaultier "Le Male" Christmas Tree Set *H&B*

Kenzo Perfume Spray / Shower Gel *H&B*



Short-sleeve Polos, solid colors
Men's Wear

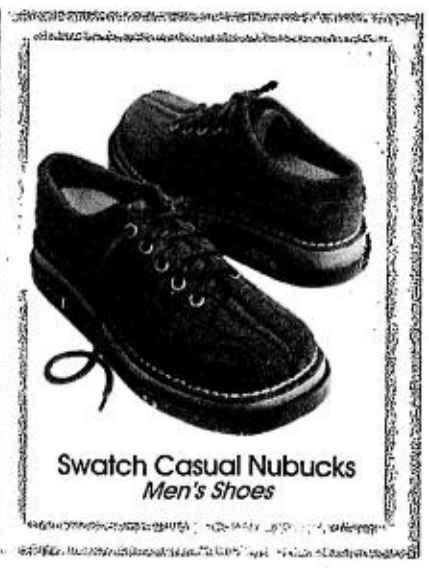
Echolac Travel Cases *Luggage*

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO

Leaveland Leather Wallets
Men's Accessories

Cameras
Camera Department


Swatch Casual Nubucks
Men's Shoes

Ralph Lauren 3-pc Hankie Set
Men's Accessories

Canvas Cellphone Holders
Men's Accessories

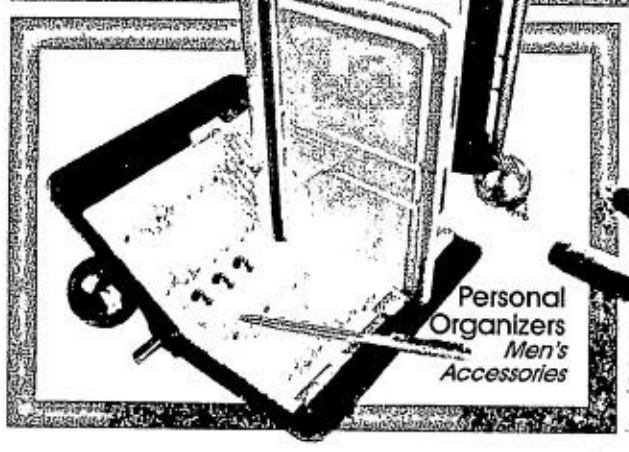
Hand-made Ties in New Colors
Men's Accessories

McJim Belts *Men's Accessories*

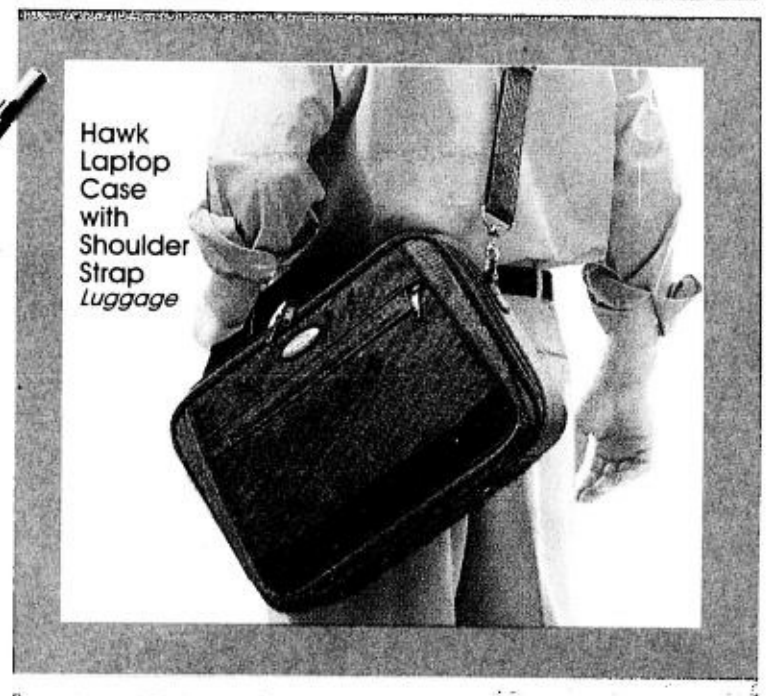
Gibi Leathers *Men's Shoes*

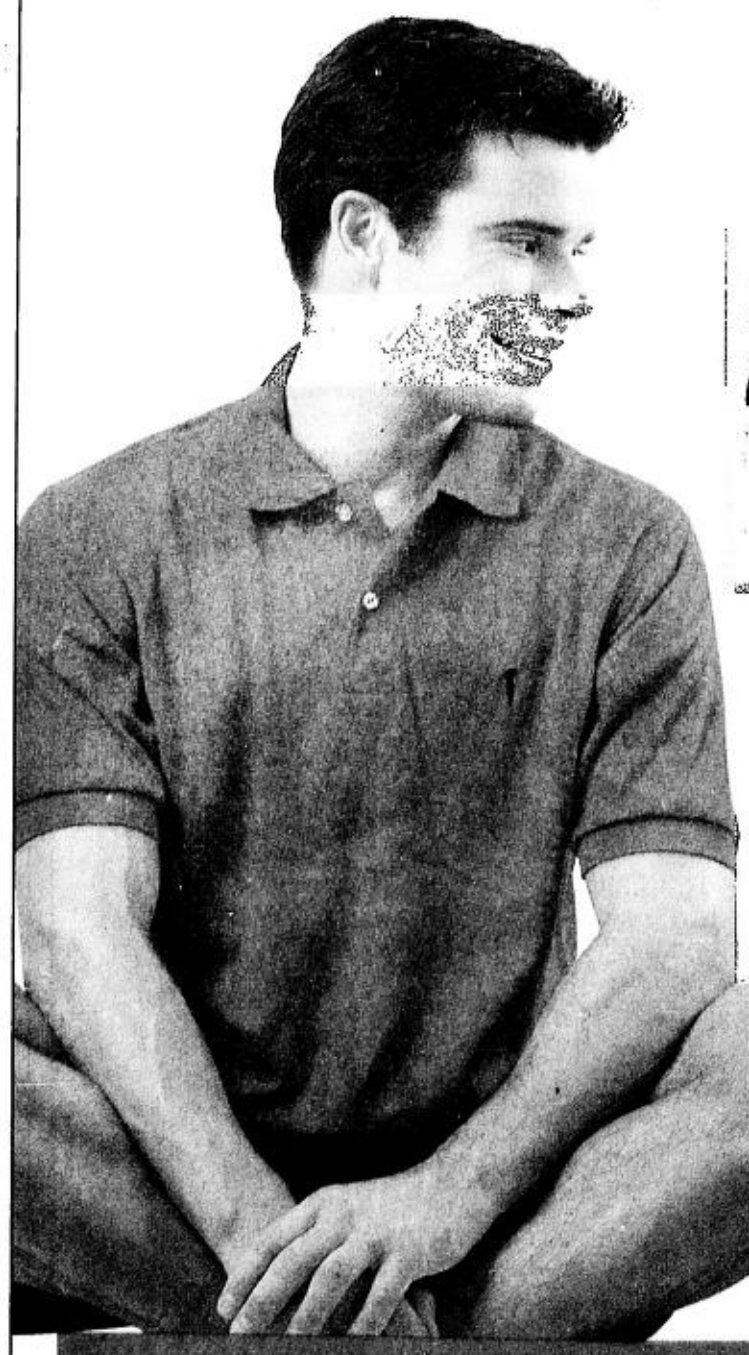
Bristol Dress Shoes *Men's Shoes*

Distinctive gifting ideas from the Men's Wear, Accessories and Shoes Departments; Camera, Stationery and Luggage Departments; and H&B


Personal Organizers
Men's Accessories

Parker Pens
Stationery


Hawk Laptop Case with Shoulder Strap
Luggage



Pajama Shirts with matching Shorts or Pants
Men's Wear

the perfect GIFT

In denominations of P2,000 P4,000 and P500

gift solutions Christmas 2001

for teens

Velcro Wallets with Chains *Men's Accessories*

Diesel Fashion Shades *Men's Accessories*

Backpacks *Luggage*

CD Cases *Men's Accessories*

Cross Ion Pens *Stationery*

Lacoste Spray Perfume with FREE FM Radio *H&B*

Skechers Rubber Shoes *Men's Shoes*

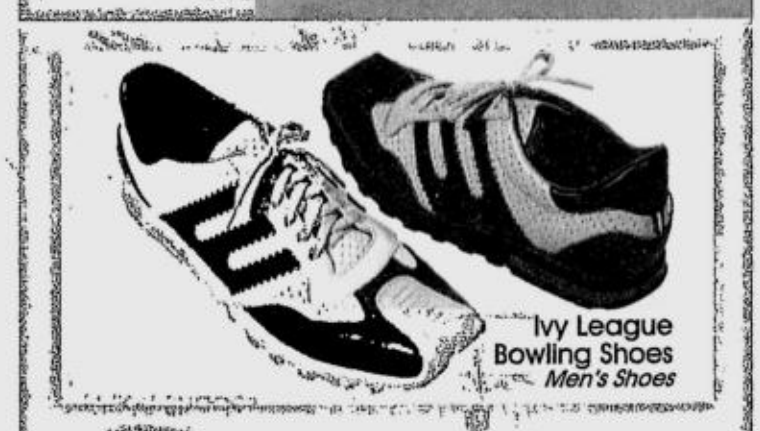
Timex Watches *Men's Accessories*

And 1 Rubber Shoes *Men's Shoes*

Super hot head-to-toe solutions to holiday groovin'

Canvas Fashion Belts *Men's Accessories*

Knitted Sports Tees *Boys' Teens' Wear*


Ivy League Bowling Shoes *Men's Shoes*

SM

We've got it all for you! DEPARTMENT STORE

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO